

# SPIRITUAL LIFE & MESSAGE



**Song:** “Be Thankful”

**Prayer:** *As led by the Spirit*

**Scripture:** Psalm 100

**Title:** “Give Thanks”

As she sat down to begin her evening devotion, Sissie reflected on the year that had just passed. It was a year with more unsettling activities and events than most had ever experienced; a year of a pandemic resulting in: high unemployment; little or no socializing; unbelievable numbers of people in lines to receive food handouts; and millions of deaths resulting from the virus. 2020 had been a very disquieting year.

She remembered how in March, with the raging virus, COVID-19, a new normal evolved. People were instructed to “stay at home”, “wear a mask or face covering”, “social distance”, “wash your hands often”, “quarantine”, etc. These were all part of the new normal.

As a result of the new norms, many people had lost their jobs and were struggling to keep food on their tables. Additionally, despite the new normal, many people, whom Sissie knew, had succumb to the virus. As she thought about them, she whispered a prayer asking God to continue comforting their families.

Yet, despite the tragedies and inconveniences brought on by the coronavirus, Sissie had noticed a positive change in the attitudes and behaviors of many of the people she encountered. Many were reaching out and helping others, volunteering services, giving monetary and food donations, displaying patience, and speaking with a smile in their voice.

In her own household, she had enjoyed more quality time with her children and husband, and they were creating some good memories. They started having family Bible study in the evenings. As a result of the Bible study, they prepared and delivered Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners to persons with no local

families in their community. Yes, even though a devastating virus, COVID-19 had brought about some positive changes.

Floating back to the present, Sissie rejoiced at how God had blessed her during 2020. Her household had: sufficient food to eat; running water and electricity; shelter; no loss of income, and no one in her household had contracted COVID-19, but most important of all, her family had grown spiritually.

**Prayer:** Dear Father in Heaven, as we travel down life’s highway, when we encounter tragic or disquieting circumstances, please help us yield to your Holy Spirit to guide us through these moments, allowing your glory, love and grace to shine through. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

**A Word of Encouragement:** When you experience adversities in life, remember Jesus’ words to the Disciples "... In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." John 16:33

**Challenge for the Month:** When you become disheveled or anxious, look for the good in a situation and rely on God to bring you through.

## Polishing Your Communication Power

1. disheveled 2. succumb 3. embrace 4. tyro

- \_\_\_ a. beginner in learning : novice
- \_\_\_ b. marked by disorder or disarray
- \_\_\_ c. to be brought to an end (such as death) by the effect of destructive or disruptive forces
- \_\_\_ d. to take in or include as a part, item, or element of a more inclusive whole

L	U	D	P	D	Z	V	G	I	E	M	B	R	A	C	E	S
V	E	U	Q	V	Y	O	H	T	H	K	V	S	Q	P	T	Q
S	U	F	W	J	V	M	O	B	N	L	A	H	T	D	Y	J
A	T	D	B	K	I	S	R	V	M	S	L	L	S	N	R	S
D	Y	V	S	U	C	C	U	M	B	N	U	F	C	X	O	O
E	E	P	I	P	H	A	N	Y	J	D	T	G	D	T	K	C
V	G	T	L	E	K	T	G	Y	A	D	K	F	R	L	E	I
I	Q	F	K	N	S	V	E	G	E	R	S	H	S	Q	V	A
S	X	L	T	W	A	P	N	L	A	U	K	L	M	M	Q	L
T	O	G	J	D	M	U	E	F	B	N	M	A	U	F	E	D
A	V	A	A	Z	O	V	R	W	E	B	Y	F	A	X	W	I
T	P	O	C	Y	E	U	Q	R	E	N	Y	M	K	C	G	S
E	T	N	F	H	F	C	V	I	N	E	H	Z	K	O	W	T
E	R	R	S	M	Y	M	N	K	E	T	K	I	L	W	D	A
Z	A	I	Z	W	S	V	E	O	U	L	B	B	W	Z	A	N
E	D	R	L	B	P	Q	X	O	M	E	V	E	S	T	U	C
B	C	P	C	Q	B	J	Y	N	L	Y	F	J	J	V	Y	E

## JANUARY 2021

*find the words*

- disheveled**
- devastate**
- embrace**
- Epiphany**
- Mask**
- MLK**
- social distance**
- succumb**
- tyro**
- week**
- young adult**
- youth**