



"The Thank You Basket"

Compliments of Rabbi Moshe

November 2026

As we are about to celebrate the Holiday of Thanksgiving, we pause to reflect on this past year. There were good moments that made us smile and laugh, and moments that broke our heart and made us cry. We had good times, and times when we were shown more than we could understand. As the saying goes, 'one thing in life is for certain, that nothing is for certain'.

The trick is to **take a few moments each day to stop, and give thanksgiving for what we have. That's why it is called 'the present.'**

"It brought to mind an old story about two angels and two baskets. Here it is."

Once upon a time, G-d sent two angels down to earth, each one carrying a basket. The first angel's job was to collect all the prayers and requests, where people asked for all their different needs. The second angel's job was to collect all the prayers where people said 'thank you'.

The first angel carrying the "requests basket" was busy from morning till night....."Please help me get that promotion." "Please let my kid pass the test." "Please let the car make it through one more winter." "Please get me home safe tonight." " Please let me win the lottery ticket". His basket was overflowing with requests, even before lunch, and he had to fly back up twice just to empty it!

The second angel carrying the "thank you G-d " basket, walked the same streets, past the same houses, people and the same cars. He waited, waited and listened. At the end of the day, he flew back up with just a few little "thank you" notes rattling around the bottom of his basket.

G-d looked into both baskets. He wasn't angry. He was a little sad and perplexed, like a father who gives and gives and only hears from his children when they need something, and unfortunately very little acknowledgement or appreciation for all the kindness and goodness. End of story.

Brothers and Sisters, as first responders, we know this feeling better than anyone. People call us when something goes wrong. Nobody calls 911 to say, "Thanks, everything's fine over here!" or "I'm having a party, please join us", we know what it's like to give everything you've got and no appreciation heard back in return. So, let's not do that to G-d, or to the people we love in our lives.

This Thanksgiving, fill up that second "Thank You Basket". Thank G-d for getting you home safe after every tour. Thank your partners and peers who always have your back. Thank your family, the ones who wait up worry and love you for who you are. Pick up the phone and call the old-timer who trained you when you were a rookie. A thank you costs nothing, and it can make someone's whole week.

As per request from many of our readers, is a "Thanksgiving Prayer" for use at your Thanksgiving dinner (print out and keep in your pocket):

"A Thanksgiving Prayer"

Lord, thank you for having given us life. G-d, you have given us everything that we need and could ever want. Help us to see with your eyes all the beauty that exists around us. Often, we look around but don't really see how lucky we are. Help us to not complain about small things day in and day out either. But rather let us thank You for the simple things in life like sunshine, family, and loved ones.

G-d, help us to be conscious of everything that we have going for us, even if we are afflicted by Illness or challenges of everyday life. Thou art glorious and can grant us the strength to use the power we possess to change our lives. Lord, we are happy for all what we have and will have because it comes from You, whatever comes from You, is filled with glory and we accept it.

Thank You for having created the ocean for it is beautiful, the sun for it is bright, the moon for it is romantic, and the day and the night. Thank You for giving us food every day to eat and water to drink. You know our needs and fulfill them. Many worry, saying what shall we eat tomorrow or how are we going to cope with all that is shown to us.

But we should be like the birds in the sky, fish in the sea and live with faith. They worry not as to what they will eat today or tomorrow, yet You provide for them Lord. Help us to have a greater faith in You, Lord, and help us to not worry so much.

We thank You Lord for all the beautiful things You bring into our lives each day. Lord, help the thanksgiving nature which is within us to become more present in our lives. So that when we begin to think negatively or complain about small things, we can begin to realize how small our problems are and be thankful for everything we already have. And last but not least, Lord please remind us to find something in this beautiful world of yours to smile about every day, even if we have to look in the mirror. Help us to remember this prayer Lord , today and every day and let us say, Amen.

Never a better time than today, to share some time with your loved ones, let them know how much they mean to you and how precious they are to you. as no one knows what tomorrow might bring.

A little humor from the "Moshe Files" to keep you smiling:

"The Unbreakable Comb"

A salesman was demonstrating unbreakable combs in a department store. He was impressing the people who stopped by to look by putting the comb through all sorts of torture and stress. Finally to impress even the skeptics in the crowd, he bent the comb completely in half, and to his surprise it snapped with a loud crack. Without missing a beat, he bravely held up both halves of the 'unbreakable' comb for everyone to see and said, "And this, ladies and gentlemen, is what an unbreakable comb looks like on the inside." LOL....That's called being quick with a comeback... lol...

On behalf of ALL the Chaplains, wishing you and your loved ones a healthy, safe, and happy Thanksgiving. And on Veterans Day, a special thank you to all our troops who served our country twice, first in uniform and now as first responders. Your service will always be remembered. May G-d bless you, keep you safe, and always keep you in His loving care. AMEN. If you need an ear to listen, a shoulder to lean on, or some good humor to share (I know you have a good joke a good laugh or story to share), please don't hesitate to drop us a line or give us a call.

All our contact information is on our Police Chaplains' website: www.chicagopcm.org.

Should you need an ear to listen, or a shoulder to lean on, or perhaps have some good humor to share, please don't hesitate to give us a call.

Compliments of your Police Chaplain, Rabbi Moshe Wolf

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