

Cross-Cultural Perspectives from the Director



Watch Your Attitude!

Kent Crockett in *The 911 Handbook* tells about a woman named Sally who decided she wanted to do something nice for her neighbor, Susie, so she baked a pie and carried it next door. When Susie opened her door, she was surprised to see Sally holding the pie. She replied, *“For me? Oh, thank you so much! You just don’t know how much I appreciate it! You are so thoughtful for doing this! Thank you!”*

Because Susie liked the pie so much, Sally decided the next week to bake another one. When she took it over, Susie opened the door and said, *“Thank you so much. You are so kind!”*

When she took another pie over the following week, Susie simply replied, *“Thanks.”*

Sally took another pie over the next week and Susie responded, *“You are a day late with that pie.”*

The following week she baked another pie. This time her neighbor said, *“Try using a little more sugar and don’t bake it quite as long. The crust has been a little bit hard lately. And I’d like cherry instead of apple filling next time.”*

The next week Sally was so busy, she was unable to cook for her neighbor.

When Sally passed by her house on the way to the store, Susie looked through the window and noticed she wasn't carrying a pie. She then stuck her head out the window and yelled, "Where's my pie?!"

"It's so easy to get used to our blessings," says Crockett. "After enjoying them for a while, we begin to think we deserve them. Then instead of being thankful, we start complaining. It's a process that occurs so slowly, we don't even realize it's happening. Our attitude has changed from being grateful to ungrateful." It's so easy to adopt the "You owe me attitude!" In prayer, how many times do we skip thanksgiving and go directly into request mode?

"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Am I telling you to be thankful for being away from loved ones during holidays, no food on the shelves at the supermarket, bumpy pot-holed roads, floods, civil wars, hardened hearts, no electricity, water off, passport still waiting in the office after multiple weeks, difficulties learning languages, and a host of other things? The Bible doesn't say we should be thankful for everything (although there are many blessings we certainly do need to be thankful for). Not thankful *for* everything, but thankful *in* everything. *In* the midst of our trials and burdens we can have an attitude of gratitude.

Just want to tell you
I'm thankful
For all that you have done
For the stars and the moonlight
And the setting sun
When my work on earth is through
I'm going home to be with you
Just want to tell you
I'm thankful
That's all"

