



God has **SPACE** FOR YOU

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What are you NOT thankful for?

Thanksgiving, and the family sit down to a table laden down with God's bounty. Before the prayer is said and the food passed, Grandma starts the tradition of naming something for which she is thankful. Everyone around the table takes part, some hurriedly with little thought, as they want to get to the eating tradition. But others mention special blessings God has produced in their lives in the last year.

However, no one ever asks if there's something in your life for which you are not thankful and probably never will be. This is the negative side of gratitude and one we are loathe to admit to. Not thankful about something? Never! Oh, we might say, "there are puny little irritations I would like to wish away, but... unthankful, not me."

I think we rationalize away or trivialize our ingratitude by saying it's not important, that we prefer to concentrate on the important things, but if the things that bug or irritate or aggravate us are not dealt with correctly they will burrow their way under our skin and stay there.

Psalm 126:1-3 says: "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, His love endures forever. Give thanks to the God of gods. His love endures forever. Give thanks to the Lord of lords. His love endures forever, to Him who alone does great wonders. His love endures forever."

And in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "...give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

It seems to me that God's Word tells us over and over that no matter what we must endure, we are to be thankful. "But I don't feel thankful," you might answer. "That situation is so bad, so awful that gratitude is out of the question. I can't be thankful for it." Think about this; we are not asked to **feel** thankful but to give thanks.

I believe these "thanking God in everything" phrases are recorded in Scripture because there is power in an "attitude of gratitude". An unthankful response says to God, "I don't trust you with my life. You've brought something into my life that's too hard for me to cope with or to bear." Our ingratitude limits God's ability to work in that unbearable circumstance.

I challenge you this Thanksgiving season to search your heart and mind, find those one or two—or many—things that you complain about and are ungrateful for, bring them to the Lord—and be thankful for the unbearable. And see what God can do.

**And whatever you do, whether in word or deed,
do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving
thanks to God the Father through him.**



Colossians 3:17

SPACE FOR CRAFTS



Easy Apple Centerpiece by Rachel Paxton

Someone recently shared with me a great, easy idea for making a table centerpiece. All you need to get started is several pounds of Red Delicious apples. The apples you can make into candle holders! All you have to do is use a paring knife to cut a circle out of the top of the apple (removing the stem). Then use a spoon to scoop out enough apple to allow enough room for a votive candle. If you want to use a larger candle, you could scoop out more of the apple. The top of the candle should be flush with the top of the apple.

Stand the apple on the counter and see if it's standing straight. If it's a little lopsided, just slice a little off the bottom of the apple so it will sit nicely. There's lots of ways you can decorate with your apple candle holders.

If you want to decorate your table, you can take a pretty bowl and fill it with apples. Place 2-3 apple candle holders in with the other apples and light the candles for an attractive centerpiece. You can also set several of the candle holders on the table and decorate with greenery from your yard, such as evergreen branches, leaves, berry sprigs, pine cones, etc. Use your imagination. At Thanksgiving we had several card tables set up and I set one apple candle holder and a few pieces of evergreen on each table since there wasn't room for more decoration. You can also set the candle holders around a room, like in a bookcase, on the piano, on the china hutch. Just make sure to set something under it in case the wax spills over.

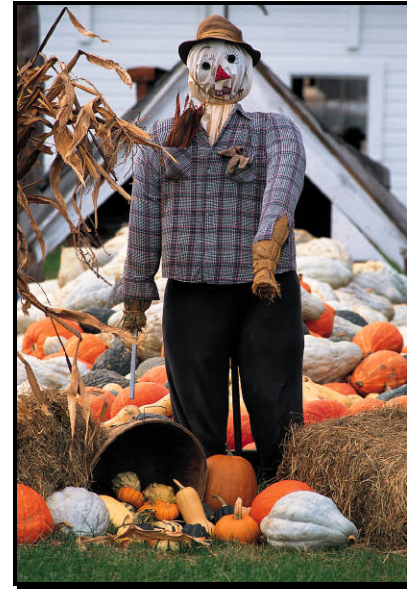
Some people think these candle holders look a little weird at first, because they're not used to seeing apples used as candle holders, but they look really great and cost next to nothing if you have some apples and votive candles laying around. They will last 2-3 days until starting to spoil. They give a warm, natural feeling to a home and are very attractive and easy to make.

About Author

Rachel Paxton is a freelance writer and mom who publishes the Creative Homemaking Recipe of the Week Club, a weekly newsletter that contains quick, easy dinner ideas and money-saving household hints. To subscribe send a blank e-mail message to FreeRecipes-subscribe@egroups.com. Visit Creative Homemaking at: <http://www.creativehomemaking.com> and Suite 101 - http://www.suite101.com/welcome.cfm/creative_homemaking.

Top 8 Tips on Maintaining Abstinence

1. Decide what you want to do about sex.
2. Make sexual decisions in advance.
3. Talk to your partner.
4. Avoid "high-pressure" situations
5. Say "No" like you mean it!
6. Learn about your body.
7. Educate yourself.
8. Wait til marriage to have sex.



SPACE FOR QUOTES

One can never consent to creep when one feels the impulse to soar.

Helen Keller

FUNNY SPACE

My 12-year old daughter asked me, "Mom, do you have a baby picture of yourself? I need it for a school project." I gave her one without thinking to ask what the project was. A few days later I was in her classroom for a parent-teacher meeting when I noticed my face pinned to a mural the students had created. The title of their project was, "The oldest thing in my house."

-Amiee Kent

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