

1 God, help me series

God, help me

TO BE THANKFUL

Harriet Omondiagbe



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HARRIET OMONDIAGBE



Godly Pearls



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“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
And into His courts with praise.
Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.
For the LORD is good;
His mercy is everlasting,
And His truth endures to all generations”.

Psalm 100:4-5

Text quoted from The Holy Bible, New King James Version®
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My birthday was two weeks ago. But this evening, my dad brought in a parcel from our mailbox.

“A gift for Anthony,” Dad announced.

“A gift? Who sent the gift?” I asked.

“Let’s see.... oh, it’s from your uncle, James, and it’s for your birthday,” Dad explained.

“Oh well, but my birthday was two weeks ago. I wonder why it took so long to arrive here?” I complained.



“Hmm, I think it’s time for a W.M.I question,”
Dad said.

“Oh, I love What’s More Important questions,”
I replied.

“So, what’s more important - that your uncle sent
you a gift or that the gift arrived late?” Dad asked.
I thought for a few seconds.



“I think what’s more important is that my uncle sent me a gift,” I replied.

“Great thinking, Anthony!” Dad said. “So, rather than complain, we say thank you.”

“Hmm, I understand. I need to thank Uncle James for this gift,” I replied.

“Now, that’s the right thing to do!” Dad said.



The next day, Mum bought a new lunchbox for me because my old lunchbox was broken. “I don’t like the colour of this lunchbox,” I complained.

“Purple looks beautiful. Besides, that was the last one on the shelf and I wanted to get you something to use on Monday. We can always get another one, you know?” Mum explained.



Just then, Dad walked into the kitchen.

“Anthony, why don’t you T.A.W.G.G?” Dad said.

Dad wanted me to *Try Again With God’s Grace*. Whenever Dad said that, he was giving me another chance to say or do the right thing.

I thought for a few seconds.

I looked at the purple lunchbox.

I knew the right thing to say and do.



“I’m sorry Mum and thank you for getting me a new lunchbox,” I said.

“That’s OK, Anthony,” Mum said smiling. “It is OK to tell us what you prefer. While you will not always get what you want, you should be thankful for what you have. Now, it is time for me to make dinner.”



Later that evening as we sat down to eat dinner, I was not happy about the peas and pieces of carrot on my rice.

“I prefer to eat peas and carrots when they are made into soup, not like this,” I complained.

Dad went into his room and came back with a bible.



“I would like to show you something from the bible, Anthony,” Dad said. “Here, read this verse in 1 Thessalonians 5:18.”

“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you,” I read aloud.



“Anthony, God wants us to give thanks. God is happy when we are thankful for everything, even for things we don’t like but God brings our way. It is difficult to be thankful for things you don’t like but when you ask God to help you, He will help you,” Dad explained.



“Please, will you join me as I pray?” I asked.

“Of course!” said Dad and Mum.

“Dear God, this is Anthony and I hope you can hear me. Please help me to always be thankful even when I don’t like what I have. I ask for this in Jesus’ name, amen!”

“Amen!” said Dad and Mum.



The next Wednesday at school, Mr. Kay, our soccer coach asked me to play as one of the defenders for our school team.

I wanted to be the goalkeeper and not one of the defenders.

I began to feel unhappy.



Just then, I remembered Dad's voice, *"Anthony, God wants us to be thankful. It is difficult to be thankful for things you don't like but when you ask God to help you, He will help you."*

I smiled and muttered to myself, "I will do my best as one of the defenders in this soccer team!"



About the book.

When Anthony got a late birthday gift from Uncle James, he wasn't too happy about it and complained. But what about when he got a new purple lunchbox? When Mum served dinner? Did Anthony learn not to complain but to be thankful for what he had?

The book, *God, Help Me To Be Thankful*, is one of the books in the "God, help me series". This book aims to encourage children to be thankful. This is what God wants us to do as His children.

Other books by the author.

1. Dear God, Your love is the best!
 2. My emotions and God
 3. I can praise God
 4. ABCs of nighttime talk with God
 5. Not disabled
 6. Looking for Larry
 7. Skateboard Pride
 8. No hat, no play
 9. Mr. Denver needs a helping hand
 10. Beth's graduation speech
 11. No drama on Saturday
- and many more!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR.

Harriet Omondiagbe

Dr. Harriet Omondiagbe is a Christian writer and author. She writes for Godly Pearls, a Christian organization in New Zealand.

Harriet is passionate about godly parenting and wants to see kids thrive in a godly home. Through her writing, she hopes to offer biblically-sound resources to teachers, parents and caregivers, so they can in turn, help their kids to develop a growing faith in Jesus, and real love for God.

Godly Pearls

Godly Pearls is a Christian organization in New Zealand. Our goal is to encourage and empower people to pursue an intentional and deeper relationship with God.

Visit us to download free printable bible-based resources including Sunday School lessons, bible object lessons, bible character study, devotionals for kids, Christian drama scripts, scripture memory verses, colouring pages, bible word search, bible maze puzzles and much more!

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