A Weekly Word Renee Noseworthy

Readings for the week of Oct. 11/26 (Thanksgiving):

Deuteronomy 8:7-18
Psalm 65
2 Corinthians 9:6-15
Luke 17:11-19

Sometimes, we can just live our lives focusing on whatever is in front of us. We don't always fully take time to really notice and appreciate all of the wonderful and awesome things that God has provided for us.

These readings have helped me to slow down and be thankful for so many things that I typically take for granted.

2 Corinthians 9:8 says*, "And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."*

We can trust that God will provide for us abundantly. We need not be fearful about sharing too much of what we have, because God promises us that He will take care of us. That knowledge allows us to be more generous with sharing with others that may be asking God for His help

In Philippians 4:19-20, God says "*And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever."*

That promise from God is meant for everyone. Yet, we see a lot of poverty and those in need around us. Those of us who have more than we need, are meant to be generous in our giving to those who are less fortunate. Sometimes, God's people need to be willing to be His hands and His feet to others. All to God's glory, not our credit.

In Isaiah 58:6-7, God tells us what He considers to be an acceptable Fast, in the words,

"Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of wickedness,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
   and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover him,
   and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?”

When we Fast, we deny the flesh and submit ourselves to God’s will. Sometimes, that means not getting everything we WANT, while still seeing our own NEEDS met, so that we can share with others out of the abundance that God has given us.

Let’s remember what James 1:17 says, “*Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows*.”

As I have meditated on these readings this week, I am reminded of how much I have to be thankful for, and that God desires that I show His love to others through being willing to give away some of what He has given to me.