

March 11, 2021

Read Deuteronomy 8

Key verse: Deuteronomy 8:17

Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gained me this wealth.'

Give Credit Where Credit Is Due

Our parents and guardians teach us from a young age that hard work and perseverance will bring us future prosperity, which is usually true. We give letter grades to children to indicate how hard they are working and how well they are learning things that are necessary for their success as adults, and we encourage our children by celebrating graduations and giving them awards for their achievements, all of which can boost a child's self-image and give them confidence to face future challenges.

But do we teach our children gratitude? Parents and guardians know how difficult it can be to raise a child, teachers know the challenges of teaching children, and all of them know how much support children need to succeed in life. Yet children can grow up without recognizing the vast support network that surrounds them. And children and grown-ups alike can go through life without ever acknowledging the support that God gives us.

Who gave us life in the first place? Who provides the air that we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat? Who gave our bodies the capacity to heal? Who gave us the ability to fall in love, to form relationships, to be fruitful and multiply? And who gave us the ability to reflect on all of this and realize just how awesome life is?

The Israelites, making their way through the Wilderness faced many challenges and hardships on their journey to the Promised Land, and no doubt their abilities to adapt and even thrive in the Wilderness could have been a reason to be proud of themselves, but they could never have reached their destination without the mighty hand of God guiding, protecting, and sustaining them along the way. And for their own well-being, God reminds them that he has been leading them over the past forty years, bringing them out of slavery and into a land flowing with milk and honey.

It's easy to neglect God or blame God for every hardship, but if take some time every morning to recognize the abundant blessings that God bestows us every minute of every day, we will know that whatever success we enjoy is ultimately God's success!

Prayer: God of abundant blessings, thank you! Thank you for everything that we are and the world is. May our hearts forever be filled with gratitude for what you have achieved and enabled us to achieve. Amen.