

From: GOD



RETURN TO SENDER

To: YOU

Enclosed: The gift of life

Return to Sender

From Despair to Thanksgiving



Hannah (1 Samuel)

Return to Sender

From Despair to Thanksgiving



“[Hannah] vowed a vow and said, ‘O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and...will give to your servant a son...’” (1 Samuel 1:11)

Return to Sender

From Despair to Thanksgiving



“Then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life.” (1 Samuel 1:11)

Return to Sender

From Despair to Thanksgiving



“[Eli said], ‘The God of Israel [will] grant your petition that you have made to him.’ Then [Hannah] went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.”

(1 Samuel 1:17-18)

Return to Sender

From Despair to Thanksgiving



*“For this child I prayed,
and the LORD has
granted me my petition...
Therefore I have lent him
to the LORD. As long as
he lives, he is lent to the
LORD.”*

(1 Samuel 1:27-28)

Return to Sender

From Despair to Thanksgiving



*“His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.”
(1 Samuel 2:19)*

Return to Sender

From Despair to Thanksgiving



*“Hannah prayed and said,
‘My heart exults in the
LORD. My horn is exalted
in the LORD. My mouth
derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in your
salvation.’”*

(1 Samuel 2:1-2)

Return to Sender

From Despair to Thanksgiving



*“There is none holy like the LORD. For there is none besides you. There is no rock like our God.”
(1 Samuel 2:1-2)*

Return to Sender

From Despair to Thanksgiving



*“Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth... The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble bind on strength.”
(1 Samuel 2:3-8)*

Return to Sender

From Despair to Thanksgiving



“Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn.” (1 Samuel 2:3-8)

Return to Sender

From Despair to Thanksgiving



“The LORD kills and brings to life. He brings down to the grave and raises up. The LORD makes poor and makes rich. He brings low and he exalts.” (1 Samuel 2:3-8)

Return to Sender

From Despair to Thanksgiving



“He raises up the poor from the dust. He lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor.”

(1 Samuel 2:3-8)

Return to Sender

From Despair to Thanksgiving



“For the pillars of the earth are the LORD’s, and on them he has set the world.” (1 Samuel 2:3-8)

Return to Sender

From Despair to Thanksgiving



“The LORD visited Hannah and she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel grew in the presence of the LORD.” (1 Samuel 2:21)

Return to Sender

The Secret of Being Content



Return to Sender

The Secret of Being Content

“What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?” (1 Corinthians 4:7)

Return to Sender

The Secret of Being Content

“I am not speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:11-13)

Return to Sender

The Secret of Being Content

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7)

Return to Sender

From: GOD



RETURN TO SENDER

To: YOU

*Thanks for
everything!!!*

Enclosed: The gift of life

Return to Sender

Thanksgiving: Returning the Favor

Giving thanks to God is an act of intentional humility. It honors the one who's given you everything.

Return to Sender

Thanksgiving: Returning the Favor

*“Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his
presence with singing! Know that the LORD, he is
God! It is he who made us, and we are his. We are
his people, and the sheep of his pasture.”
(Psalm 100:1-5)*

Return to Sender

Thanksgiving: Returning the Favor

*“Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him! Bless his name! For the LORD is good. His steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”
(Psalm 100:1-5)*

Return to Sender

Thanksgiving: Returning the Favor

Some benefits of giving God thanks:

- **It reminds us that God is the giver of all good gifts, and that all blessings and gifts are graciously given to us by his hand.**
- **It reminds us we're not in control, but that we serve a mighty God who is.**
- **It keeps us in a place of humility and dependency on God as we remember how much we need him.**
- **It opens up the door for continued blessings.**

Return to Sender

Thanksgiving: Returning the Favor

*“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.”
(Psalm 103:1-5)*

Return to Sender

Thanksgiving: Returning the Favor

“As for man, his days are like grass. He flourishes like a flower of the field. For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children’s children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.” (Psalm 103:15-22)

Return to Sender

Thanksgiving: Returning the Favor

“The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all. Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word! Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will! Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!”

(Psalm 103:15-22)

Return to Sender

Giving Away What Was Never Yours



“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.”

– Jim Elliot

Return to Sender

Giving Away What Was Never Yours

“[Jesus said], ‘Whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it.’” (Mark 8:35-37)

Return to Sender

Giving Away What Was Never Yours

There's a pleasure in giving what you have to someone in need that is unlike the pleasure of ownership.

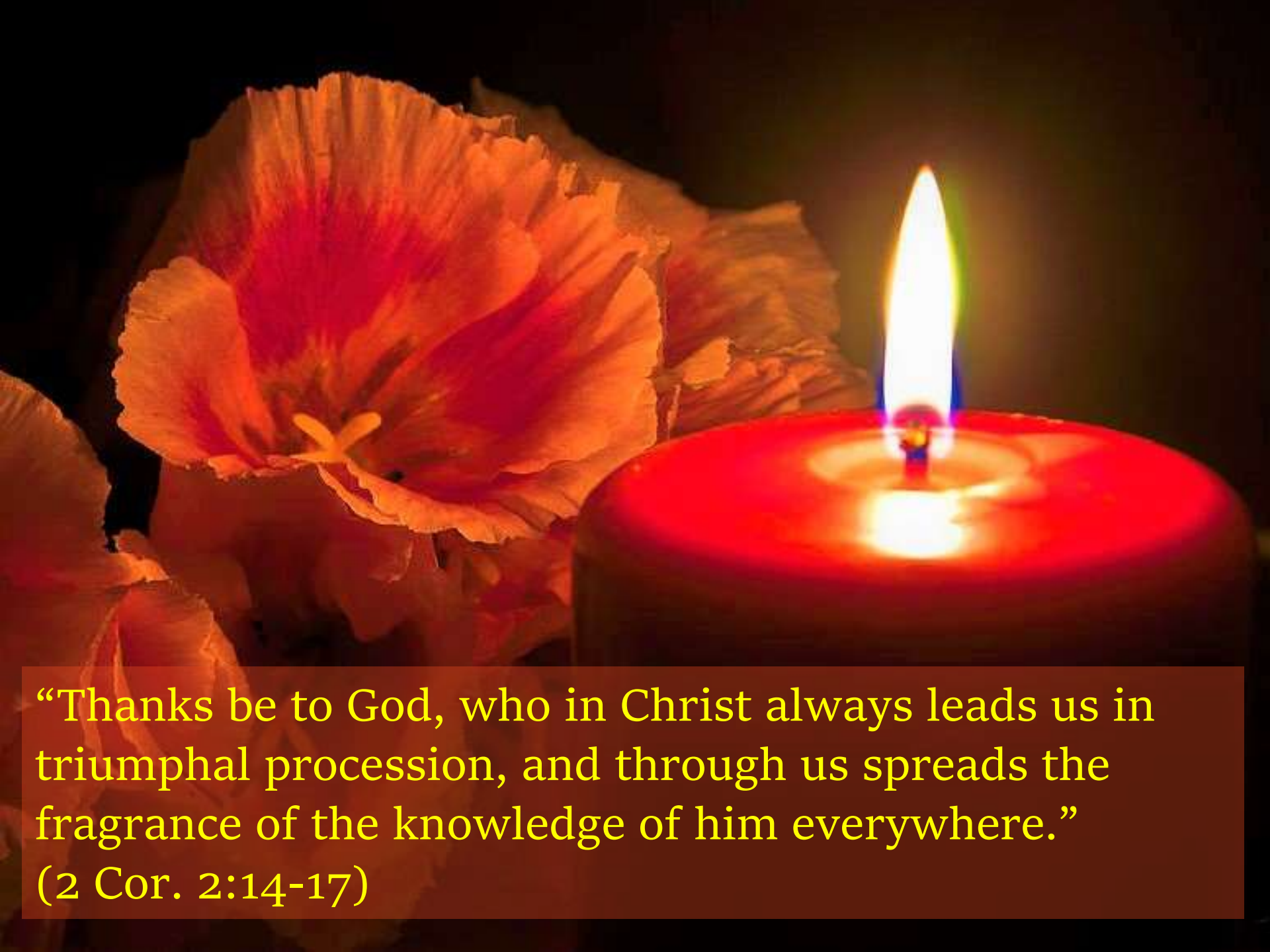
Return to Sender

Giving Away What Was Never Yours

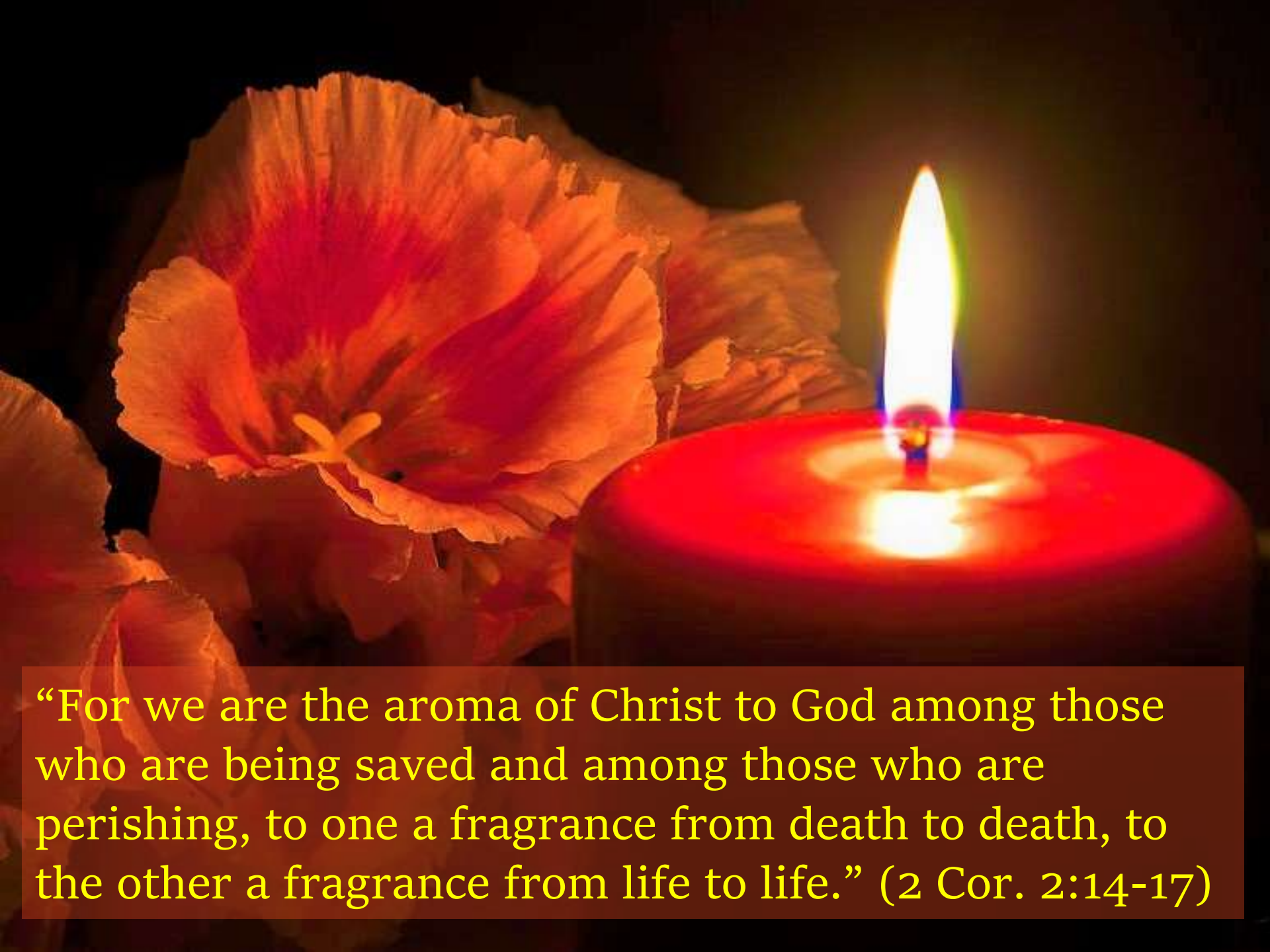
Your whole life should be a gift, returning to God what God has given you.

You give your life back to God—not because you should, not because it's yours. But because you are *his*.

And because God takes care of his own.



“Thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.”
(2 Cor. 2:14-17)



“For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life.” (2 Cor. 2:14-17)

Return to Sender

From: GOD



RETURN TO SENDER

To: YOU

*Thanks for
everything!!!*

Enclosed: The gift of life