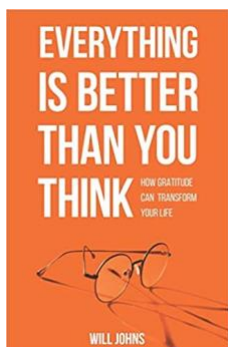


BOOKS OF THE MONTH

**Everything Is Better
Than You Think**
*How Gratitude Can
Transform Your Life*

By: **Will Johns**

ISBN: 978-0-5786-9912-7

Scripture Readings:**Gratefulness****November 1-6**

1 Thessalonians 5:18

November 7-13

Hebrews 12:28

November 14-20

Psalms 100:3-4

November 21-27

Isaiah 63:7

November 28-30

Psalms 75:1

*"We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. "Bring them here to me," [Jesus] said. ... Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves.
Matthew 14:17, 18, 19b (NIV)*

Give Thanks For What You Have

Our God takes little and nothing and does mighty things. He allows us to do the same when we thank Him for what we have rather than complain about what we don't have. We are grateful to God first and foremost because He is God.

In the sphere of thankfulness we know that we have everything we need. Giving thanks throughout every scope of our life circumstances is received by God as our confident declaration that we are most grateful that He is our Source and our Provider. We don't have to go far to see people who are hurting and in need of much. While it may not be us – it is us – because we're all brothers and sister in creation.

As brothers and sisters in Christ, we are fully aware that we receive blessings for our own enjoyment and for our sharing with others. Gratefulness opens up a bounty of blessings to anyone – not because they did something to deserve it – but because we're all a product of God's love. We don't deserve the gift of salvation that Jesus' life paid for, but we are grateful. We don't deserve God's grace and mercy that follows us all the days of our life – but we're grateful. We don't deserve the forgiveness of our sins toward God and each other – but we're grateful.

Therefore, out of our gratefulness to God let us share our blessings with others this Thanksgiving season so that they may also be grateful to the One Who loves them equally among everyone else. May our sharing of gratitude draw more and more of our siblings in creation into the fold of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Happy Thanksgiving.

Pastor Daniel Simmons