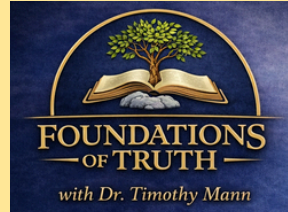


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How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed?
And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard?
And how are they to hear without someone preaching? (Rom 10:14)

MAY 2026



BEING THANKFUL

BY BILL POWELL

I want to start out with the fact that I am. I was born. I am alive and so far, have lived a life of 77 years. That alone warrants enormous thankfulness. To think this is only the beginning.

Color plays such an important role in our lives. The clothes we wear and the endless color choices we have. The color of signs, our vehicles, our house, the world, and all its geography. The green grass, the flowers, and the people. How many times do we get to choose what color we want? That is an important and enjoyable thing we get to do. What if everything were black and white? Some of my favorite colors are: my black cars, chrome, and who doesn't like beautiful green grass? Then there is the beautiful blue ocean I get to see every day. Every day it is a different shade. How about fireworks or a rainbow? The many colors we get to enjoy are endless. When I was a kid, you could get a box of crayons with 64 colors.

Today you can get a set of crayons with 152 different colors. Everything we see and do has colors. Even clear is a sight to see. There is neon, bold colors, dull colors, pastels, and bright and shiny colors.

Let's focus on the blessings of the things we get to see. Actually, from the first day we are born throughout our whole life we continually see new and wonderful things. I will take a stab at this, but it is quite obvious that it will be impossible to state all the things I have seen that I am thankful for. I have seen my children born, go through school including college, and married. Oh, yes, and grandchildren. God willing, I could see my great-grandchildren. I have seen them play sports, music, games, speak, play, and laugh. I have seen them learn about God and worship. This whole exercise is a daunting task. Actually, this is an impossible task. The song, *'COULD WE WITH INK THE OCEAN FILL'*.

*Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made;
Were ev'ry stalk on earth a quill,
And ev'ry man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Tho' stretched from sky to sky.*

I have four full pages complete, and I have only just started. I plan to continue and carry on, but it is going to take a few years to find a place I can call finished. Actually, this will never be finished. The Lord will never stop blessing us. Remember this song: *Count Your Blessings? When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed when you are discouraged, thinking all is lost, count your many blessings name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.* How about you start counting your blessings, name them one by one. Daunting, isn't it? Maybe if I stick with this project, it will become a book.
Bill



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WHAT MY DAUGHTER IS TEACHING ME ABOUT FAITH

BY CHRISTINA HUTCHINSON

If you can believe it, summer break has already started in our house! What a fun and full year it has been homeschooling Cora. She has worked so hard, and that effort has really paid off, so much so that when we begin again in the fall, she'll already be halfway through first grade... and I'll have a second grader by Christmas!

It has been such a joy to watch her learn, those "light bulb" moments when reading suddenly clicks, or a math problem finally makes sense. Of course, it hasn't all been easy. Like most kids, she doesn't love making mistakes. Frustration can come quickly. But in those moments, I remind her: I don't expect perfection. You're not going to get it right every time. Mistakes are part of how we grow. If we ignore them, we miss the chance to learn. Saying that to her again and again this year has reminded me how much I need to hear it myself. As adults, we often handle our mistakes differently. We hide them, justify them, or try to move past them too quickly. Yet Scripture shows us that God, in His mercy, doesn't waste our failures; He uses them. Our shortcomings often reveal deeper truths about our hearts and point us back to His grace. They remind us that we are not self-sufficient; we need Him daily.

James 1:5 says, *"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives generously to all without reproach."* What a comfort that is. God meets us in our weakness and gently leads us forward. Like children learning something new, we are always being taught. Sometimes through success, but often through correction. Proverbs reminds us that wisdom grows over time through listening and learning.

As we step into a new season, may we carry humble, teachable hearts, trusting that God is still at work in us, shaping us day by day.



THE LOVELY MONTH OF MAY

BY ELAINE LEAF

May arrives like a gentle invitation - to slow down, step outside and notice the beauty that has been quietly unfolding around us. Flowers bloom in vibrant color, the days stretch a little longer, and the air feels filled with possibility. It reminds us how renewal often happens gradually, in small and faithful ways. Just as nature awakens, we too are invited to refresh our spirits and open our heart to the goodness surrounding us.

In this beautiful time of year, we are reminded of the life and love of Jesus, who brings renewal not just to the world around us, but to the soul within us. Grace, hope and compassion echoes in the rhythms of spring - new life emerging, light overcoming darkness and love making all things new. May this May be a wonderful time for you to reflect on His presence in your life, to draw closer in faith and to be encouraged by the promise that we are never alone.



GRACE FOR THEM, GRACE FOR US

BY LUCAS WILLIAMS

Something that's been on my mind lately is the Biblical perspective that we are all the same. You're probably wondering what I mean by that, so let me explain. Too often, we (especially in the church) look at the world around us, the sin we see committed, and the people doing wrong with an attitude of superiority. "I would never," we scoff. We label certain people or certain groups very simply: they are different from us. And I guess in one sense, that's true. After all, if we are born-again believers, we have been recreated. The old self that we knew died. We are redeemed, holy, righteous, and saints. We are called out from this world, a holy and unique people in the earth.

But are we truly that different from the people we look down on? Or do we simply give ourselves grace we aren't willing to give others? We condemn a murderer on the local news, but do we forget that Jesus said hatred is just as offensive to God? We are so quick to judge motives and push people away, but do we think we aren't capable of the same sin?

Maybe, instead of branding people and making a distinction between "us" and "them," we should look at people how Jesus sees all of us: beloved, made in the image of God, yet also sinful and capable of much evil. There is no distinction, for we all share in the same humanity—for good and for bad. And when we see people through this lens of grace, we will be moved to love and compassion rather than disgust and disdain.

So here's a challenge for you: think of the most recent person you were mad at. And instead of responding with hatred and frustration, why not pray for them and ask God to bless them, just as the Word says in Romans 12:14 (NLT),

Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them.



MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU

BY JOHN STOREY

Since it is the month of May, I figured I would share with you an idea I got from a T-shirt recently. Stay with me, you'll see what I'm getting at. There is a new "holiday" that is celebrated in the month of May during recent years, May the 4th is Star Wars Day because of the play on words May the Fourth be with you sounds like "May the Force be with you." I recently saw a T-shirt that spun another meaning for the same phrase and it struck a chord with me, so I wanted to share this with our listeners.

The shirt depicts Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the blazing furnace and the Fourth Man in the fire, and the top of the shirt reads "May The Fourth Be With You". As in, May the Fourth Man in the Fire Be With You! Now that's a saying I can get behind! Most believe that the fourth man in that fire was Jesus. So this is a fun way to say may Jesus be with you! So throughout the month of May, may you have the courage to stand up when everyone else bows to idols. May you have the courage to tell people about the Fourth Man who has been with you through every refining fire of your life. And May the Fourth Man in the fire be with you every step along the way and share His peace, His joy, and His love with you and everyone around you.