

# FaithBIT

## Thank You for the Many Blessings

Reflection by Chip Carlson



As people around the world struggle with the impacts of the Covid Pandemic, I have become acutely aware of the major impacts on lives, and how relatively small the impact on my life has been (so far).

Bedtime prayers always involve praying for those who need God's help and expressing gratitude for the blessings I've received. In addition to the usual things I am grateful for like family, health, and church; the pandemic has reminded me of many others like healthcare workers, epidemiologists and vaccine researchers.

Many times, I confess, I fall asleep before even coming close to naming everything I am grateful for. I am reminded of the song from the movie *White Christmas*, "I fall asleep counting my blessings." Often, I have to try to remember where I left off, and resume at the next prayer time.

One of the saints in my life, my father, would always begin his prayer before family dinners the same way: "Dear God, we thank you for the many blessings of this day....." These days, I think of those words often. My father, in his later years, really enjoyed supporting charitable causes and helping people who were less able with errands and transportation. He was always looking for ways to help anyone in need. He once told me that he had led a "charmed life" and the least he could do was give back a little.

Stewardship is a way to honor my father's example and to show gratitude for the many blessings I receive daily. Now more than ever I feel the need to support our faith community financially so that others may continue to receive God's blessings.