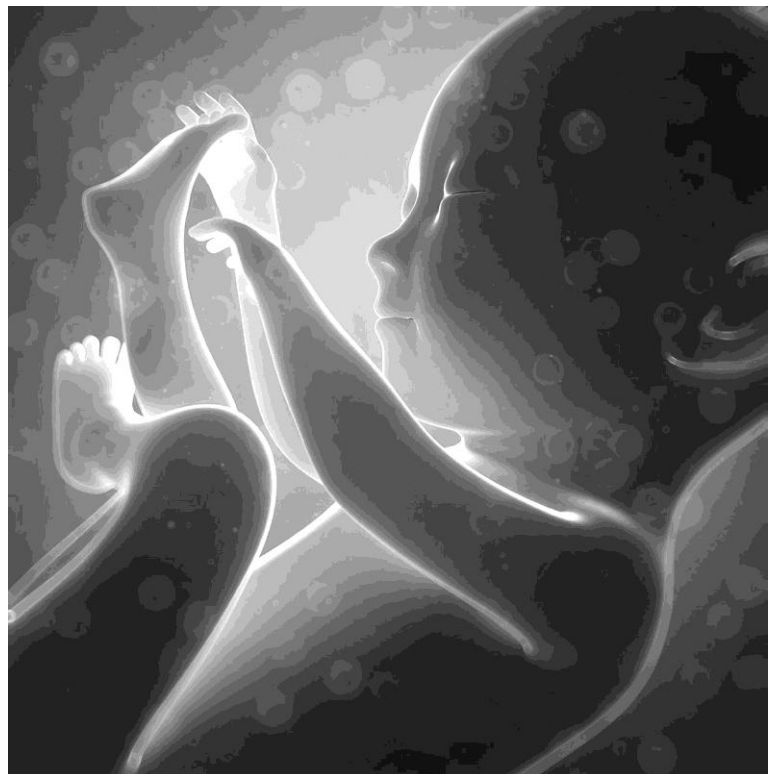


Thank God for Life, and for Eternal Life

- What thankful for? Food (lot people will have lot food this holiday; lot of us have more food than need); home (place where live, whether big/small, place God shelters you); safety (in lieu of terror attacks; while still have crime, live in relative safety); commodities you enjoy (simple things that make life easy, give pleasure)? Certainly plenty; cornucopia of blessings, couldn't begin to count!
- What else? What about something seldom think about, unless in danger; so essential to being, basic to existence, w/o it we're nothing. Take deep breath – God gave. Not just breath, health, but very life. Too often take for granted simple fact alive; only reason alive, God keeps us alive, as gift. **“In him we live and move and have our being” (Ac 18:35)**. Something to be truly thankful for! This Thanksgiving, thank God for life.
- What KD does in Ps 139. **Vs. 13-16**. “I praise, thank because you made me, gave me life.” David didn't take for granted; knew where life started. **Vs. 13**; sacred chamber, holy place where mother carried, you knit. Some know to knit; I don't; all seen it. Start with something simple, yarn. But when know what doing, careful hands move quickly to create something beautiful, precious. Even before finished, still beautiful. **Vs. 13b**. God knows what doing when knits people together; careful hands move quickly to take something so small, very beginning of human life (only God can create), and knits together into something beautiful, precious. Even before finished, still beautiful.
- David wouldn't have known that because no ultrasounds; couldn't see unborn looks like. But David knew God could. **Vs. 15-16a**. David couldn't see a baby's unformed body. Point is: God could; not only, also knitting, weaving precious human life. Interestingly enough, now with ultrasounds, we catch glimpse at what that knitting process looks like; know more about fetal development today than anyone in history; simply reinforces what David said: **vs. 14**. God has given us life.
- So thank God for life. For your life. Those pics of unborn we see on anti-abortion ads, at OB clinic, bulletin cover – you! Once looked like. So fragile, helpless, vulnerable – you! God gave you life; kept safe in mother's womb; alive today, only because of God's grace. Makes you appreciate life, and how fragile life is.
- My baby.
- Makes you appreciate life, and how fragile life is. Not just because of this experience. Any parent: baby needs you, helpless. Don't even have to be parent; anyone who believes in sanctity of life, who holds life as sacred creation of Almighty God can thank God for life, appreciate how fragile life is.
- Why so fragile? Why have to be that way? All takes: one car accident; slip/fall; one bullet; one disease; slight imbalance of chemicals, chromosomes – life endangered. With what we know about physiology, we can marvel at way bodies work, way they sustain our life. Doesn't change fact that human body is fragile, that life can so quickly empty out. Why that way? Why live in world so filled with death: grandparents, babies, soldiers, friends die? Why?



- Because human life under curse. Because thousands years ago, in Garden of Eden, where God created perfect life, no death, just one rule from God – **“You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die” (Gen 2:16-17)** – A&E ate fruit, deliberately disobeyed God. In million ways since, we’ve been eating fruit, deliberately disobeying. Called curse of sin; because of it, **“You will certainly die.”** A&E died; oldest killed younger son, died; flood claimed thousands of lives; wars have drenched ground with blood; diseases, miscarriages, murders, suicides; people die; if escape all this, old age. Yes, human life is fragile. Because of curse of sin, death devours us all.
- But this breaks God’s heart. He never intended death to go hand-in-hand with life. Human life is crown of God’s creation; first idea. Everything else in universe (even angels) made in supportive or secondary role to human life. Precious to him. God hates death; breaks his heart.
- So God reversed curse, restored life. Here’s how: became human life. This crown of creation he made – became one with his own creation. JC became human life – fragile, helpless, vulnerable human life – like picture on cover, like us. Once Jesus! Jesus became tiny baby, held my mother, loved by father, by heavenly Father. Then died; Son of God died. If you’ve ever buried child, felt sickening pain, better believe God felt same pain, as watched his Son die.
- But when Jesus rose from dead, restored life. So now, because of Jesus, when we die (yes, still have to die), will not go to hell but live in n m, heaven. Everyone who believes in Christ will go to heaven. In heaven, life is restored. In heaven, no death, no miscarriages; children, parents, friends, spouse won’t die. Cancer can’t touch; car accident can’t take you; old age can’t claim you. In heaven life is restored, eternal life, the way always supposed to be, because Christ became life, set it down, took it back, gave to us.
- So this Thanksgiving, we have much to be thankful for. But don’t forget to thank God for life, and for eternal life. Praise God with KD: **vs. 13-16a**. Thank God for your life, which he carefully knit together in sacred chamber of mother’s womb. Thank God for life around you: hug kids, kiss spouse, visit parents, call friends. Life is precious; in a moment it’s gone. But not forever, because Christ restored life, in him have eternal life. **Vs. 16b**. Before you were born God held your life in his hands; to this day, hold; knows when life will end; knows when eternal life will begin. Thank God for life. Thank God for eternal life.

Psalm 139:13-16

¹³ You created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.