

Gratitude Sites Popping Up

It seems gratitude is a new internet cottage industry of sorts. Sites are cropping up across the web to provide a platform for people to express heartfelt (and often long-overdue) gratitude to those who have had a positive influence on their lives.

Nora Firestone, founder of *Thanking of You*, expresses the need for such a service this way:

Perhaps you've thought to thank those who have had a lasting, positive impact on your own life. A teacher who recognized and encouraged something special about you as a kid; a coach, mentor, friend or advisor who said or did just the right thing at a critical time; a stranger who saved a life, or a birth parent who gave a life.

Maybe a family member, friend or boss has somehow had a positive influence on you – whether decades ago or just this morning. You feel the need to express gratitude for their contributions – and they deserve to learn that they've made a difference.

Firestone is right on target, and she has developed a nice idea. But the expression of our gratitude to someone should not be confined to a website. When possible, our thanks should be expressed personally.

A while back, I read this clever (and true) statement on a placard: *I know about email and voicemail, but whatever happened to face-mail?*

Whether we realize it or not, there is no one to whom we are more indebted than God Himself. We are told in Scripture that “every good and perfect gift” comes from Him (James 1:17). If anyone deserves to hear our gratitude, it's God. He alone is worthy of all praise.

As you contemplate your daily provision and blessings, the very air you breathe, even the memories of all those who have blessed you over the years, remember from whom it all comes!

So don't forget to tell God you are *thanking of Him*. You don't even need a special website or iPhone to do it. Just turn your heart and thoughts to Him.

The Apostle John, in relating his vision of heaven, wrote:

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: “Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb, forever and ever (Revelation 5:11-13 NKJV).