

Thankful for a Light Switch

In the movie *Castaway*, the main character – played by Tom Hanks – is the sole survivor of a plane crash that leaves him stranded on a remote island.



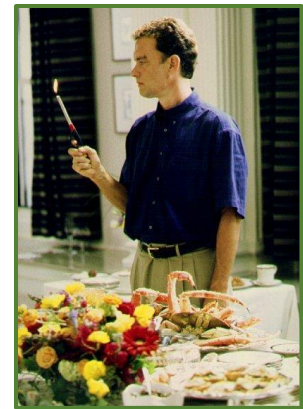
He spends four years alone on the island before finally escaping on a makeshift raft. He is eventually picked up by a passing freighter and returns to his old life.

But having spent so much time away from civilization, he finds himself awestruck by little things.

There is a scene near the end of the movie where he's lying in bed, flipping the light switch on and off repeatedly. After years of wood-gathering and fire-lighting on the island, the simplicity of the light switch leaves him mesmerized.

We live a life of tremendous luxury. We have roofs over our heads, food in our stomachs, refrigerators, running water, air conditioning, switches that instantly light up the room and a thousand other things designed to make our lives more comfortable and efficient.

Yet in the midst of all this luxury, what we lack is appreciation. We've become so spoiled that it never even occurs to us just how blessed we are. We flip on light switches a dozen times a day without even stopping to think about their significance and the role they play in making our lives easier.



Tom Hanks' character had to be stranded on an island for four years before he could really appreciate the value of electric power. Without a doubt, we're just like he was before the plane crash left him stranded on that island. We go through life numb to the blessings and luxuries around us.

We need to change that. I need to change that.

Not just in the *stuff* – technologies, conveniences, all the things that make us comfortable – but in the bigger considerations, such as our spouses, children, relationships, jobs, opportunities to serve in Life Care and Century Park, and the list goes on and on.

We need to express thanks for what we have, and pray that God would continually remind us of just how blessed we really are.

And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 5:20 NLT).

– Beecher Hunter