



“When you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” John 1:48. Jesus said this to Nathanael when He called him to follow Him. He sees you too in your seasons of great joy and He sees you in your seasons of great struggle. He is under the fig tree of your life today.

Our teaching this week is by Fr. Mike Schmitz. He is a college campus minister, who God is using in mighty ways around the world through various avenues including YouTube and his *Bible in a Year* podcast. In his teaching, *Giving Thanks is Necessary*, Fr. Mike exhorts us to see the importance of taking time to see and give thanks for the blessings in our lives.

As charismatics, we know we have a special tool for giving thanks, praise! When we give thanks, we reflect on the gifts God has given us. When we praise, we go from focusing on the gift to focusing on the Giver. We can feel His love, know that He sees us, know that He is with us!

This week we will focus on praising God for being there for us even when we cannot see Him. Let’s strive to “Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.” Psalm 100:4.

Week 4's Video: [Giving Thanks is Necessary by Fr. Mike Schmitz](#)

**Personal Challenge** – This week's challenge is to start and end your day with praise. Begin your morning and evening prayer times by asking the Holy Spirit to bring 4 blessings to mind. Then spend time thanking and praising God for each of those blessings.

How does beginning with praise affect your day? How does ending your day with praise impact your perspective on the events of your day?

**“Family” Challenge** – As we prepare our hearts for the Holy Spirit's arrival this Pentecost, let's live out Psalm 95:2, “Let us enter His presence with thanksgiving, let us shout triumphantly to Him in song”. Your challenge is to make instruments, play real ones, or have your own air band and have a “family” time of praise and worship. It does not have to be long, but sing praises to God and make a joyful noise to the Lord!

Blessings,

Laura Dorsey