

“I Can’t Give Up Now” with Dorinda Clark Cole
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ODQBk17_deU

“Thy Word Have I Hidden in My Heart That I Might Not Sin Against Thee” with Mattie Moss Clark, Esther Clark, and the Voices of Deliverance
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-EHzG_EWwaU

“He Doeth All Things Well” with Esther Clark and the Voices of Deliverance
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FiBo_GiSZpk

“Fight On” with Keith Davidson and the Voices
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ikjKVhCe_w

“God Specializes” with Keith Davidson and the Voices
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mVaTgcOLOPM>

“Joy” with Kirk Franklin and the Georgia Mass Choir
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=02wCBAdT6FI>

“Having You There” with the Mississippi Mass Choir
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqUW05Ti_fo

“That’s When You Bless Me” with the LA Mass Choir
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=riIlGFBLQcI>

“What is This?” with Bishop Walter Hawkins
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5dY4sppiKug>

“Everything He Promised” with Dorinda Clark Cole
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5I4zbXA66I>

“Nothing Too Hard for God” with Dorinda Clark Cole
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1dVqAHFd9FA>

“He Knows” with Karen Clark Sheard and Dorinda Clark Cole
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=odNU1FaopVo>

“He’s Able” with Dietrick Haddon
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DezhSulRxlo>

“For My Good” with Dorinda Clark Cole
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_woa0Okah4

“I’m here to tell you that you can’t give up. God. He’s got too much -- Too much fire; He’s about to fill you; He’s about to thrill you; He’s about to move you. He’s about to change things around you. If you just don’t give up. “ (Dorinda Clark Cole)

“Don’t Give Up” with Dorinda Clark Cole
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OkQkDICVxHk>

Thanksgiving by God's Design

Jeremiah 28:3,4; 11-17; 29:10-11; 30:11-24

And out of them shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of them that make merry: and I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small, Jeremiah 30: 19.

Praise the Lord! Happy Thanksgiving! I hope you have a wonderful time with family, friends, worshippers, and God. And I also hope that this time of year gives you a lot to be thankful for, in blessings and in faith.

God has done so much for us, and I hope this Bible study encourages us to both appreciate and look forward to the Thanksgiving that comes by God's design.

In *Jeremiah 28*, a false prophet named Hananiah told the people of Judah that they could break the bonds of their oppressors in two years. Hananiah boldly proclaimed in the house of God before *the priests and of all the people, saying, 2 Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, saying, I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon, Jeremiah 28:1b-2*. Hananiah dramatically broke the wooden yoke that Jeremiah wore and provoked God to tell Jeremiah that God would replace the wooden yoke with an iron yoke on the people of Judah.

In the famous passage of *Jeremiah 29:10-11*, God told the people of Judah that they would become free from the Babylonians not after two years, but after 70 years.

How would you feel if God told you that the blessing you needed would come 68 years after the two years that

someone promised as prophecy? I would find it hard to believe God.

But nevertheless, God said, *That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place. For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end, Jeremiah 29:10-11.*

I hope that life is wonderful for all of us right now. But if it is not, there is a wonderful thanksgiving by God's design on the way. Whether we are achieving great things or waiting for God to work in our lives, God is designing awesome thanksgiving in our lives.

Indeed, first, while God is doing great things for us, God wants us to acknowledge the ways that we are also hurting and need God's help.

It might look all good that we have the promotions or salaries or jobs or deliverance or achievements that we want. But God wants us to acknowledge the hurts that we suffered in getting there.

God promised that the people of Judah would be free of Babylon's bondage. But God also wanted the people of Judah to see that God had given them an incurable wound. *12 For thus saith the Lord, Thy bruise is incurable, and thy wound is grievous. 13 There is none to plead thy cause, that thou mayest be bound up: thou hast no healing medicines. 14 All thy lovers have forgotten thee; they seek thee not; for I have wounded thee with the wound of an enemy, with the chastisement of a cruel one, for the multitude of thine iniquity; because thy sins were increased. 15 Why criest thou for thine affliction? Thy sorrow is incurable for the multitude of thine iniquity: because thy sins were increased, I have done these things unto thee, Jeremiah 30:12-15.*

It is serious weakness to acknowledge how wounded some of us are and to describe how much help we need. It

would make us vulnerable in front of everyone who learned how much we hurt.

But this is what God wants us to see and acknowledge, even when we are at the heights of achievement and deliverance. There is great thanksgiving in being able to thank God for His blessings and to talk with God about where we have been hurt and wounded. This insight into our lives is a great gift to be thankful for.

But on top of that God steps in on our behalves and lifts us up from places where no one else could deliver us. It is precisely when no one else believes that we can be healed that God steps in to salve our wounds. It is precisely when we believe that we are incurable that God becomes our very present help to wholeness.

It was precisely in Judah's incurability that God said, *17 I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord, because they called thee an Outcast, saying, This is Zion, whom no man seeketh after.*

18 Thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will bring again the captivity of Jacob's tents, and have mercy on his dwellingplaces; and the city shall be builded upon her own heap, and the palace shall remain after the manner thereof.

19 And out of them shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of them that make merry; and I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small.

20 Their children also shall be as aforetime, and their congregation shall be established before me, and I will punish all that oppress them.

21 And their nobles shall be of themselves, and their governor shall proceed from the midst of them; and I will cause him to draw near, and he shall approach unto me; for who is this that engaged his heart to approach unto me? saith the Lord.

22 And ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Yes, Thanksgiving by God's Design is a blessing to have. It gives thanks for our achievements and God's work in our lives while also giving us insight to our deepest wounds. Thanksgiving by God's Design comes after salvation from God precisely when we come to think that we cannot be saved.

Thanksgiving by God's Design comes with the voice of people whose lives have been made merry and joyous. Thanksgiving by God's Design acknowledges the love and encouragement and support of family and friends who pitched in to make each of our lives better. Thanksgiving by God's Design thanks God for friends and prayer partners and worshippers who accepted our weaknesses and saw that we would all become strongest together. Thanksgiving by God's Design takes heart in blessings that are bigger than anything we could have imagined or put together. Thanksgiving by God's Design prepares our hearts to give our lives to God and say "I Do" to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thanksgiving by God's Design exults in knowing that we are God's forever.

We thank you God, for the wonderful ways you are designing our lives – our ups to give us a insight into where we need to be restored and our downs to experience the lifting power of God.

Thank you, Lord!

Tobias Pinckney at Powered to Witness University, 11/19/16

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