

## **Stewardship June 2006**

### **An Attitude of Gratitude**

A friend I know has a bad habit that trips him up from time to time. Usually he is joyous, full of confidence and good humor. Then when he is tired or stressed, he seems to slip into a sour mood of self-pity. He sees the many material blessings in other people's lives and wonders why they don't come to him. Envy and jealousy takes hold of his heart.

In conversations with him, we both recognize that this frame of mind is unproductive and sinful. He has at times confessed his sin in prayer, asking for God's healing and strength. Yet one of the most productive conversations we had was on the attitude of gratitude. I invited him to take a blank piece of paper and write down the many blessings he has received from God. Later he told me, it took him a while to get started, but when he did, he couldn't stop. He filled more than three pages of blessings, from his family and friend (each one named) to his faith in Jesus Christ. He began to realize that God has truly blessed him with incredible gifts. And with that attitude of gratitude, he wanted to give back to God's work so that he could be a blessing to others.

Psalm 106:1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.