

ISAIAH 40:27-31 –

“Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God”? ²⁸ Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. ²⁹ He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. ³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; ³¹ but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Dear children of God who trust and hope in God alone,

Are you thankful? Some of you might look around at your life and say, Another day to be thankful for! Really? Are you out of your mind? Do you not know? Do you not know about the new President and what has happened following his inauguration? Do you not know of the constant threat of terrorism? Do you not know I lost my job? Do you not know the tough times my family is going through? Do you not know about the Packers losing again in the NFC Championship game? Another day to be thankful for? Really? You really think we have reason to give thanks today? Don't you know? It is this thought of being thankful, even in the face of living in this sinful world that will steer our thoughts and hearts today as we use the theme:

SERMON THEME: We Can Be Thankful!

- 1. We often complain and worry**
- 2. The LORD forgives and strengthens us**

While each day is another day to be thankful to our God, couldn't we all come up with a list of reasons why today is not really another day to be thankful for? Search your heart. Probe your mind. What are they telling you? God reminds us to be thankful always, but often we seem to be saying to ourselves that we don't have a lot of reasons to celebrate. And maybe, just maybe, a part of our heart seems to be saying that life is too empty or hollow to be thankful?

Do you not know? Isn't the evidence irrefutable that life today is so tough and it is not one to be thankful for? Do you not know? Who is the question really directed to? Is your love for me growing cold? Is it not the Lord? Lord don't you know? What is up with you Lord? Don't you care about me anymore? Lord, have you grown tired and weary dealing with this world? Has your love for me grown cold? **“Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God”? Why? Why! Lord, you really have a lot of nerve to ask me why I am complaining that my way is hidden from you and my cause is disregarded by you. Do I have to spell it out**

for you? Lord, haven't you already given me more than enough reasons to say my cause is disregarded by you and my way is hidden from you? Do you really not know Lord?

“Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, ‘My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God’?” ²⁸ **Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.”** Have you not heard the LORD has brought all things into existence by the power of his almighty word? Have you not heard the creator is absolutely faithful and loving and is sustaining, controlling, protecting and providing for his creation? Have you not heard the Creator say, **“I am with you always to the very end of the age”**? Have you not heard the Creator remind us to be strong because he is coming with an outstretched arm to save you. Do you not know we have another day to be thankful for! The LORD is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth!

Have you not heard? **“He will not grow tired or weary.”** People grow tired and weary. We grow tired and weary. **“Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall.”** Our tiredness and weariness overcomes us. Have you not heard? **“He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.”** Never does the LORD need to lay down his head for a moment's rest. He doesn't grow weary as he constantly watches over us even counting all the hairs on head. Do you not know? We have another day to be thankful for! The Lord does not grow weary and tired.

Have you not heard? **“The LORD's understanding no one can fathom.”** The LORD's ways are beyond our ability to grasp. Have you not heard the LORD speaks of things too wonderful for us to know? Have you not heard as hard as it is to fathom all of his ways are right and true? Have you not heard to **“trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding?”** Have you not heard how the LORD laughs and scoffs at all those who think they know better or more than the LORD and can subvert his will? Have you not heard God has made foolish the wisdom of the world and he destroys the wisdom of the wise and the intelligence of the intelligent he frustrates? Have you not heard the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom? We have another day to be thankful for! The Lord's understanding no one can fathom!

Have you not heard? **“He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.”** Have you not heard the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength? Have you not heard we are able **“to do all things through him who gives us strength?”** Have you not heard the LORD is our strength and song who has become our salvation? He gives strength to his people. Have you not heard because of God's power and strength sin cannot condemn us. Death has no power over us. The devil and his evil lot cannot harm us. Have you not heard our Savior say, **“It is finished?”** Have you not heard our salvation is complete won by his suffering and death? Have you not heard, **“He is not here; he is risen?”** Death was no match for the strength of the Savior. Have you not heard, **“Where O death is your victory, where O death is your sting?”** Have you not heard, **“Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ?”** We have another day to be thankful for! The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

Have you not heard **“but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”** Have you

not heard **“there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus our Lord?”** Have you not heard blessed are those whose strength is the LORD because whether we find ourselves well fed or hungry, rich or poor, we know that **“neither height or depth; angels or demons; or any powers, nothing in all creation is strong enough to separate us from the love of our Creator that is in Christ Jesus our Lord?”** Have you not heard our God will keep us strong to the end? We have another day to be thankful for! Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

Therefore, **“Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God”?** ²⁸ **Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.** ²⁹ **He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.** Another day to be thankful for? Really? Do you not know? Have you not heard? Oh, we know and we have heard! Lord, thank you for another day to be thankful for!!! Amen.