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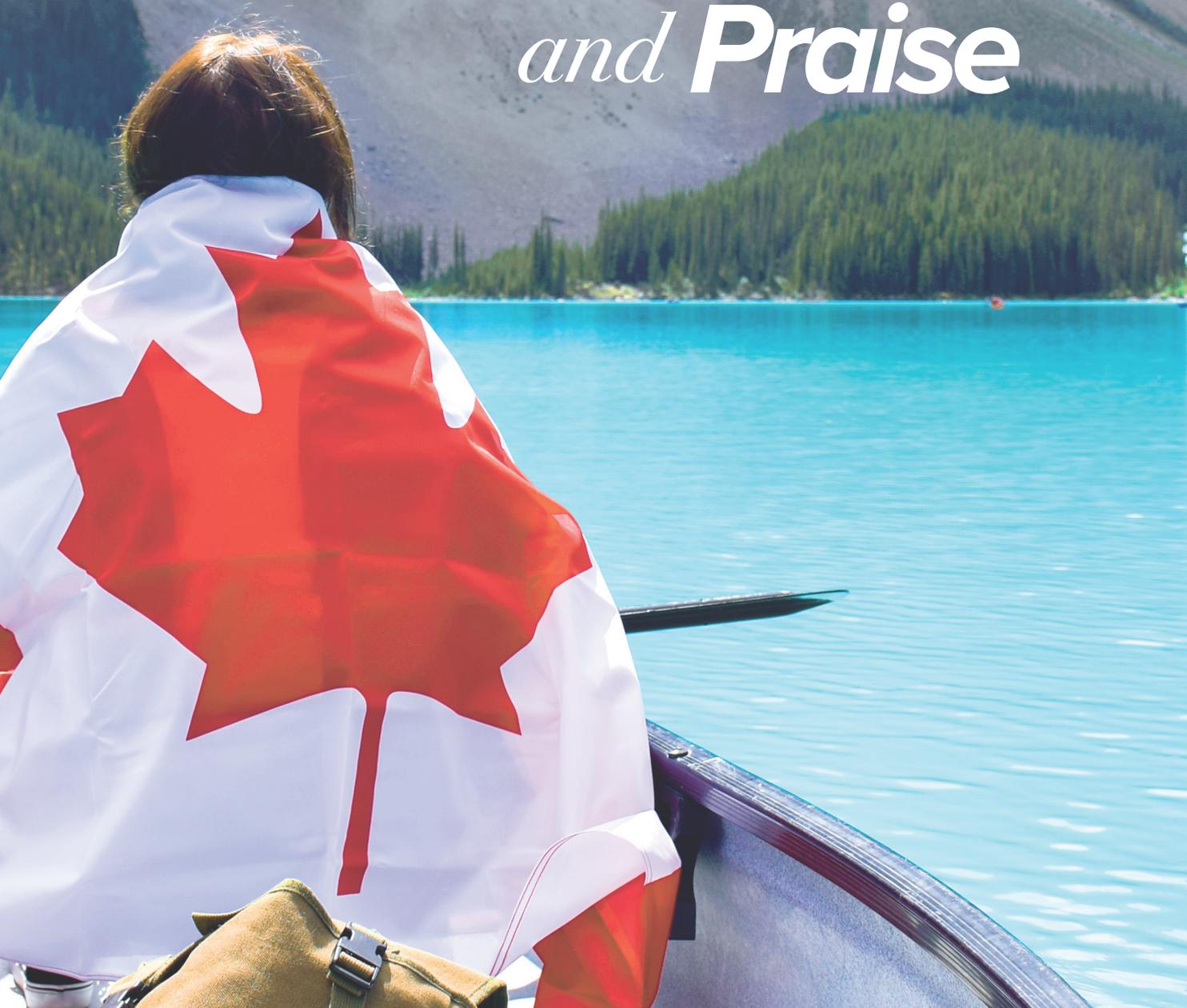
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*Gratitude
and Praise*



Learning to Love Difficult People

by BILL MARKHAM

Co-Host, *The 700 Club Canada*



Let's be honest—loving difficult people isn't easy. Whether it's someone who offends you, annoys you, or has genuinely hurt

you, our natural instinct is often to pull away or retaliate.

But Jesus calls us to a deeper kind of love. In Luke 6:32, Jesus challenges us: *"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?"* (NIV) Anyone can love someone who loves them back. True spiritual growth happens when we choose to love those who are hardest to love. Sometimes our greatest spiritual formation happens not at a church service, but around a dinner table or in a meeting room—places where tension can run high and patience wears thin.

Loving difficult people doesn't mean being passive or enabling unhealthy behaviour. It means choosing grace over bitterness, forgiveness over resentment, and Christlikeness over comfort. Think of it like sanding rough wood. It's messy and uncomfortable, but every loving interaction—especially when it's hard—is smoothing out your edges, shaping your heart into something more beautiful and holy.

What if every difficult person in your life is actually an invitation from God? An opportunity to learn to love more like Jesus? The next time someone challenges you, pause. Ask God for strength. And remember—loving them may be hard, but it's also holy. Let love be the refining fire that makes you more like Christ.

NEED PRAYER?

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A God Kind of Girl Trip

by *Angela Darby*

Prayer Centre Coach, CBN



Once planned a trip with some special girlfriends. We set off to a beautiful rental home, surrounded by quiet beaches and natural settings. Although the trip was amazing, my biggest takeaway was returning home and kneeling to pray. That's when God began to download clear revelations.

It reminded me of another kind of girls' trip found in the book of Luke when the angel Gabriel told Mary that she would give birth to the Saviour of the world. Imagine the rumours and sidelong glances she endured. God sent her to visit Elizabeth, an older relative who was also pregnant with a miracle child.

At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, "God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed." (Luke 1:41-42 NLT)

What a moment of complete affirmation. I'm sure Mary returned home with renewed confidence, joy, and strength. This was definitely a God-orchestrated girls' trip!

On my own trip, my friends and I laughed, talked, and dreamed together. We celebrated one another. God birthed new endeavours and brought deeper revelation.

We need people in our lives who can leap with joy for our destiny. We need to connect, relax, and have fun with friends who support us.

Who is in your circle? Are you intentional about staying connected and enjoying them?

Dear Lord, help us to connect with and love others the way You did. Please bring more joy, peace, and clarity to our lives through godly relationships. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



Visit 700Club.ca/Devotions to experience God's Word and renew your walk with Him with 700 Club Canada's Devotionals. We're excited to offer encouragement, guidance, and biblical truths.

Gratitude *and* Praise

By Andrew Burditt

President,
The Christian Broadcasting Associates

Canadians are typically polite, friendly people who help others and would be willing to stop and help a stranger. It's in our nature to apologize before arguing, and over the years, people from other countries would even sew our flag on their backpack when travelling because of the recognition and reputation we have around the world. We're not overly patriotic, but we are proud of our country, and you won't see a better example of this than in Ottawa, the nation's capital, on Canada Day.

In high school and while attending university, I served in the Canadian Armed Forces as a reservist for more than 10 years and even spent a few summers as a member of the Ceremonial Guard in Ottawa. Each day we would march to Parliament Hill for the changing of the guard, but Canada Day was special. It was an exciting time, full of celebration, patriotism, and even a bit of pomp and circumstance.

But do we stop and take the time to think about what being Canadian means? Do we thank God for the blessings we see each day in this country?

We are blessed to live in a wonderful country full of natural beauty and resources. Those who make up our population are vibrant people from all over the world. There is no doubt that we have our challenges, especially in the last few years, but there are a few ways we can seek to improve this great nation.

Gratitude and Prayer

by EMILY JAMES

Co-Host, *The 700 Club Canada*



Prayer is more than a conversation with God, it's a place where our hearts are reshaped. One of the most

life-changing aspects of prayer is thanksgiving. Too often, we reserve gratitude for when life feels good, when prayers are answered, or doors open. But if our thankfulness depends on our circumstances, it becomes fragile and fleeting.

Biblical thanksgiving is rooted not in what's happening around us but in who God is. First Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV) urges us to *give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus*. In other words, thanksgiving isn't just a reaction to blessings—it's a choice, a lifestyle, a declaration of trust in God's unchanging character.

Psalm 107:8 says, *Give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love*, while Psalm 52:9 (NLT) declares, *I will praise you forever, O God, for what you have done*. Even in seasons of waiting or sorrow, we can give thanks, not because life is easy, but because God is faithful. His love never fails. His promises never fall short.

Gratitude in prayer reorients our hearts. It shifts our focus from what's missing to the One who is always present. It anchors us in hope and reminds us that God is at work, even when we can't yet see the outcome.

As Psalm 50:14 says, *Make thankfulness your sacrifice to God*. Gratitude isn't just what we offer after the miracle, it's the posture we hold before anything changes. And Jesus alone is always enough.

Express Gratitude and Praise

Canada is an incredible place. We need to thank God and praise Him for His creation, which includes our landscapes, lakes, mountains, and prairies. We live in a society that is warm and welcoming. It also gives us the freedom to worship Him. We are a diverse country, and this is part of what makes us unique.

Pray for Guidance and Unity

It is crucial that we pray for wisdom and righteousness for our leaders. Additionally, we seek unity, harmony, and understanding amongst Canadians. And lastly, we pray for peace and justice for all.

Seek Reflection and Reconciliation

While we are a proud nation, we must also acknowledge our past wrongs, including the harm done to Indigenous peoples. By praying for reconciliation, we can ask God's guidance on how to build a more just and equitable country.

As we celebrate Canada Day in 2025, let's be thankful for the blessings that God has given us, both as individuals and as a country. Let's always seek to follow His leading and strive to be better.

Remember the words found carved into our Parliament buildings in Psalm 72:8, *He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth*.

May God bless you and your families. Enjoy His love, goodness, and this wonderful country.

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FROM TURBULENT TO TRIUMPHANT

“We literally lived in a crack house,” Sana said, remembering a turbulent childhood that led to a chaotic adulthood. Then one day, a friend invited her to church... and that was just the beginning of her transformation. You won't want to miss the rest!



FREEDOM FROM PAIN

Christina lived in constant pain—and doctors simply didn't understand. Then, a diagnosis of Lyme disease gave her answers but no relief. But when she attended a Christian conference, she had an incredible encounter with God—and you won't believe what happened next!



FILLING THE EMPTINESS

Brian's pursuit of money left him feeling empty—a feeling he eventually tried to fill with drugs. But an overdose transported him to hell—and he had to choose between a relationship with God... and a future in darkness. Watch to see how he decided.



THE MIRACLE OF GRACE

It seemed nothing could shake Joseph and Essence's relationship or their faith—until their daughter was born prematurely. That was when their lives hit rock bottom. Watch and see how God worked miracles for the entire family.

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- VisionTV – Nationwide
10:30 a.m. EDT
- FaithTV – Nationwide
9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. CDT
- JoyTV 10 – Vancouver
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- The Miracle Channel
9:30 a.m. MDT



Watch The 700 Club With Gordon Robertson Weekdays:

- JoyTV 10 – Vancouver
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- CBS KREM – Spokane
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- WUTV TV29 – Buffalo
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- WNYO TV49 – Buffalo
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God Is Working With *You*



By Gordon Robertson
President and CEO, CBN

God is not far from you—He’s right there. He is your very present help in time of trouble. He wants to save you, deliver you, and heal you.

And here’s the truth: All you need to do is recognize that, yes, He’s working with you every single day. That’s who God is. He doesn’t take days off. He doesn’t wait for perfect conditions. His love moves constantly towards you.

Sometimes you may wonder, *Why hasn’t my breakthrough come yet?* But Jesus says in Luke 18:1 that people “always ought to pray and not lose heart.” God isn’t ignoring you—He’s drawing you closer. Like Jesus’ parable of the persistent widow who kept knocking (Luke 18:2-8), you are invited to press in and keep believing.

The answer is often just on the other side of persistence. Jesus said, “*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you*” (Matthew 7:7). Don’t stop believing. Don’t stop asking.

And while you wait, praise. Instead of complaining, say, “Thank You for the cross. Thank You for my healing and what You’re about to do.” When we praise Him, Psalm 22:3 tells us He inhabits our praises. We enter His presence—and that’s where everything changes.

So today, declare the truth over your life: “God is with me. God is helping me. God is working with me.”

Let all doubt and fear go. He is making a way—even now. Trust Him and say yes to Him today. God bless you.

Excerpted from teachings from Miracle Living Today. Scripture is quoted from the NKJV.

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