Thanksgiving
By William Standish Reed, M.D.

"Even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also ye are called in one body, and be ye, thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." Colossians III: 12.

As I was reading God's word this day, I became aware that His word was again teaching me how I should live and how I should act in my Christian life. How should I live and act and have my being in my home, in church, in the hospital and for God's love and encouragement.

In these endeavors I should be primarily concerned with my relationship to God, to Jesus and to God's Holy Spirit. Also I should be concerned in thought and deed about my patient as he comes to me and my first concern must be about him and about his and my relationship to our healing Savior. I should never in my mind define my patient by his diagnosis or his problem but I should see him or her as a person in need of God's healing love and my loving, caring understanding. He is never "the appendix" in room 10 or she is never "the cancer of the beast" in room 12.

Often when I was closing a surgical wound at the operation's approaching end, I would sing and thank our precious Lord for His love and healing power as He has been with us again throughout the surgical procedure. I often have sung "Que mara villa, Jesus Mi Salvo, a Su Nombre Gloria". In Tampa, or Guatemala, or in Ethiopia or wherever I may be in God's creation, I have sung in English, or Spanish, or German - or in the Spirit, thanking God for being with me, for guiding me and for the healing and love of our patient.

When Ephraim McDowell performed the first laparotomy for a huge ovarian cyst on December 25, 1809 at Danville, KY, he began the procedure with prayer. Thus began American surgery. We must remind ourselves that Jesus is the same in 2008 as He was in 1809. Let us be thankful unto Him and His healing love today as in 1809 or on Calvary's cross two thousand years ago. Jesus is our life, our joy, our hope and our constant companion. Thanks be to God.

Dr. Ephraim McDowell's Prayer

"Almighty God, be with me, in this attendance in Thy Holy Hour; Give me becoming awe of Thy Presence, and grant Me Thy direction and aid....I beseech Thee, that in confessing I may be humble and truly penitent in prayer; serious and devout in praises, grateful and sincere; and in hearing Thy Word, attentive and willing and desirous to be instructed.

Direct me, Oh God, in performing this operation, for I am but an instrument in Thy Hands and am but Thy servant, and yet if it is Thy Will, Oh spare this poor afflicted woman. Oh give me true faith in the atonement of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, and a love sufficient to procure Thy favor and blessing, that worshipping Thee in spirit and in truth, my services may be accepted, through His all sufficient merit"....AMEN
“He” - Jesus

He is in control of my life - not me. Many years ago I read Ps 23:5 and heard within “who are your enemies?” - They are not people, places and things but imaginations of your past history. I speak for myself, low self-worth was a huge enemy resulting in I am not enough - God does not love me. He doesn’t want the best for me and on and on - God was always chasing me with a big stick and I could never do enough to please Him or to be honest, I could not please or do enough for anyone in my orbit. I being raised in a very legalistic religion was not taught much about the love of God but a lot of do not - should not - could not - etc. BUT He prepares a table in the presence of mine enemies - He restores my soul - I can’t but He can. He not me!

(The only stick God has is the Cross)