

The Secret Passage Into Narnia

"Thankfulness is a secret passageway into a room you can't find any other way. It is the wardrobe into Narnia." Mark Buchanan, The Rest of God



Thankfulness enlarges our hearts for love; conversely, ingratitude sucks the very life from our souls. We desperately need people who can lead us through this secret passageway of thankfulness in our thankless, cynical world. Over the years Christian author, C.S. Lewis, has been one of those gifted writers and spiritual guides to so many people. My wife, Cathy, knows I love the works of Lewis, and she gave me a very special gift this Christmas season.

Cathy took me to a one man performance called, *"Christmas with C.S. Lewis."* The British actor, David Payne, sat in his red sofa chair as he spoke intimately and playfully to the

audience as friends. He captured the essence and deep joy of Lewis as we sat in the front row lost in the mesmerizing performance. Not long into his presentation, the actor shared about Lewis beloved series, *The Chronicles of Narnia*. Payne specifically highlighted the wardrobe that opened the doorway into Narnia, the mystical land where Aslan (the Christ figure), the great king and lion, reigned supreme. I was captivated anew by the image of the wardrobe for it was the mystical passageway that allows entrance into Narnia. And in Lewis' world, Narnia is where we meet God afresh in a compelling, imaginative, and transformative ways.



Author Mark Buchanan's quote above also offers a sober warning for believers that privately harbor, nurse, and practice *ingratitude*: "God's presence, God's character are hidden, always, from the thankless." Sadly, we can miss the doorway into Narnia due to the spiritual disease of being ungrateful people, when we fail to practice God's will by being joyful and giving thanks in all our circumstances (I Thessalonians 5:16-18).

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Christmas is now officially over. But the Spirit of Christmas' joy and thankfulness needs to grow bigger in us daily. When people cut us off on slick roads, when others fail us to keep their promises of help, and even when others speak falsely against us, will we practice a heart of thankfulness? Remember, thankfulness is indeed the secret passageway that transports us into God's presence; the unseen room of faith, and hope, and love. As we start this New Year, may

we grow a *little* bigger each day.

Warmly in Christ,

Dave

Executive Director