

ENO EXCUSES

Living a Life of Purpose
on Purpose

MC Alice
Cravens
Moore

Publishing Designs, Inc.
P.O. Box 3241
Huntsville, Alabama 35810

© 2026 Alice Cravens Moore

All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted without permission from Publishing Designs, Inc., except for the inclusion of short quotations in a review.

Book design and layout: CrosslinCreative.net

Editor: Peggy Coulter, Linda Brock

Printed in the United States of America

Publisher's Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Alice Cravens Moore, 1947—

No Excuses / Alice Cravens Moore

pp. 128

14 chapters and study questions

1. Personal Accountability 2. Biblical Responsibility 3. Daily Choices

I. Title.

ISBN 978-1-945127-45-8

248.8

In memory of my father, Ezell Ivy,
whose life was so very difficult, and
yet he never made excuses.



Ezell Ivy

Acknowledgement

Much gratitude is due to Peggy Cole Coulter for her friendship and encouragement.



Alice Cravens Moore
and Peggy Cole Coulter

Contents

| | |
|--|-----|
| Introduction | 7 |
| 1 No Excuses for Ingratitude | 9 |
| 2 No Excuses for a Lack of Love | 17 |
| 3 No Excuses for Selfishness | 25 |
| 4 No Excuses for the Choices We've Made | 33 |
| 5 No Excuses for a Lack of Prayer | 41 |
| 6 No Excuses for Biblical Ignorance | 49 |
| 7 No Excuses for a Lack of Evangelism | 57 |
| 8 No Excuses for Not Using Our Talents | 65 |
| 9 No Excuses for a Lack of Forgiveness | 73 |
| 10 No Excuses for a Lack of Joy | 83 |
| 11 No Excuses for a Lack of Faith | 91 |
| 12 No Excuses for a Lack of Submission | 99 |
| 13 No Excuses for Fear | 109 |
| 14 No Excuses for Immodesty | 117 |
| Conclusion | 125 |



Introduction

When I was a high school sophomore, I had a history teacher who had a theory about excuses. This educator, whom my classmates and I nicknamed “Wyatt Earp” because he moonlighted as a city policeman, said there was no such thing as an excuse. You either did something or you didn’t. According to him, any explanation was a form of rationalization. Needless to say, we always attempted to do our homework in that class because he accepted no excuses. Our own Wyatt Earp was a “yes man” or a “no man”—nothing in between.

I realize there truly are times when we experience guilt over our inaction, and the culpability we feel could very well be unjustified, but there are also occasions when we have not done all we could (Mark 14:8). The Christian walk is one of grace, yet all too often we attempt to take advantage of God’s mercy and grace—His unmerited favor—with our excuses for falling short of what He would have us to do. Are we sometimes complacent about our failure to be all we can be as a child of God? Do we offer excuses rather than action? Do we try to justify our shortcomings rather than remedying them? There have been times when I certainly was at fault and made excuses.

Unlike my still-remembered history teacher, I am convinced there are times when we have to say no to a previous commitment or when we can’t answer a call for help, but do we make it a habit? Do we sometimes use our status as wives and mothers, our busyness, our health, our jobs, or our selfishness or apathy to deny a call to service that God has perhaps placed in our path?

In my walk with God I have identified several areas in which I have been guilty of making excuses. I don’t want my heart to condemn me (1 John 3:19–20), and I am striving to live a life that does not offer the Father a series of explanations for my deficiencies. I yearn to live a life of no excuses.



No Excuses for Ingratitude

Just how difficult is it to live a life of gratitude? How hard is it to say thank you to God, to family, to friends, to the cashier at Walmart—to anyone? This world would be a more congenial place to live if we were all grateful and said so.

Dr. Ben Carson, United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, made a statement that really struck a chord with me. He stated that he knew he had won the lottery because he was born in America and he knows God. What gratitude!

Do I thank God daily that I was not born in a country where freedoms are drastically curtailed? Do I show my appreciation by praying daily for my country? Am I grateful that I know God and that someone taught me the truth of the gospel that led to my obedience and conversion? Have I ever thanked that person?

I am so very thankful that my parents set me on a course to discover Jesus, but not everyone is fortunate enough to grow up in a Christian home. I believe if the Lord had not blessed me with the family I possess, I would have learned the truth anyway because I have always been a seeker. I love the words of Jeremiah: “And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart” (Jer. 29:13). Yet I am so very grateful that I did not have to do much searching. My mother and

father made it easy for me to find Him. Do we consistently express gratitude for our homes in which Christ is Lord?

I once read a plaque that stated, “What if today, we were just grateful for everything?” Are you thinking that is impossible? Well, it isn’t. Paul told the church at Ephesus that they should give thanks “always for all things” (Eph. 5:20). David, the shepherd boy and king, was certainly of this attitude. When he was on the run from Saul, he was prompted to write, “I will bless the LORD at all times” (Ps. 34:1).

When we remember that God is in control and that nothing is impossible with Him (Luke 1:37), we can experience thankfulness in every situation. There may be pain, even anguish, and a great sense of loss, but there can still be gratitude. Yet I will admit that it takes time to develop that sense of gratefulness.

Develop a Sense of Gratitude

My mother died of cancer when I was thirteen, and I remember being thankful that she was no longer suffering. When my father died due to a fire when I was twenty-one, I was grateful that he had been my dad and that he was with my mother in Paradise.

It was more difficult to have a spirit of gratitude when my husband Bob died of leukemia at the age of forty-two, but with the acceptance of his death came a spirit of thankfulness that we had almost twenty-two years together, that God had blessed us with three children, and that I would see Bob again.

I suffer from chronic pain and unrelenting fatigue, but on bad days I am thankful that tomorrow will almost certainly be better, and on good days I send up prayers of thanksgiving. Almost without fail, as I open my eyes each morning, I thank the Lord for waking me up to see another day.

But we often forget to be grateful for so many little things we take for granted. I rarely turn on a faucet without being thankful for the running water, having grown up in houses without it. One of my jobs as a child was to fill the water buckets and bring them into the kitchen.

When I pull into my driveway, I mentally acknowledge my gratitude to God for providing a home that not only offers shelter but also warmth and pleasing memories.

Practice Gratitude

Gratitude has to be practiced; otherwise, ingratitude will creep into our lives. Am I appreciative of my family's good health every day, or do I wait until someone is really ill before I recognize the blessing of wellness? The more people we love, the greater the odds that the status quo will change. In a sense, our loved ones are all hostages to fortune, and we should be thanking God daily when life is uncomplicated by problems, illness, or death.

- Am I critical of the clothing in my closet perhaps because it isn't new or in the current style rather than thanking God that my back is covered?
- Am I ungrateful for financial benefits until a real monetary crisis arises? I should be thankful that my bills can be paid, that I can feed and house my family, and that I can contribute to the work of the church rather than long for accumulated wealth.

Contentment, Happiness, and Blessings

Gratitude fosters contentment. Grateful folks are more congenial to be around, and their smiles are both frequent and spontaneous. It stands to reason that grateful people are happier individuals because they are more aware of life's blessings. Perhaps it would be a profitable project to list all the things, both large and small, for which we are grateful. My list is rather extensive, and some of the items may seem silly. I am not a coffee drinker, but that first sip of Diet Dr. Pepper each morning is pure bliss. I'm thankful for shoes that fit, a dependable vehicle, the sunshine after a series of cloudy days, and fellowship with my sisters in the faith.

I am grateful that God has granted me emotional, mental, and spiritual strength, and I am aware that without His grace I would

be nothing. One of my favorite scriptures is 1 Corinthians 15:10, and Paul's words apply to each of us: "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain . . ." I am so thankful for God's grace.

What is on your gratitude list? At the top of my list are the love of God, His blessed Son, the gift of His Spirit, and His holy word. Following closely on that inventory are my husband, children, and grandchildren. I'm grateful that my family appreciates me, and I value them in return. Ingratitude destroys relationships. Few things flourish in a desert; we need to be demonstrative of our gratefulness for our loved ones. More than any others, family should receive our gratitude for their importance to us.

■ **Look for Gratitude Opportunities**

Do we demonstrate our gratitude to others? Handwritten thank-you notes are priceless, but if they are too archaic or old-fashioned for me to bother with, can I at least send an email or a text or simply pick up the phone and call the person who has made a difference in my daily existence? Do I look for gratitude opportunities? Open my eyes, Lord.

I recently saw a poster with a comment by Zig Ziglar:

Gratitude is the healthiest of all human emotions. The more you express gratitude for what you have, the more likely you will have even more to express gratitude for.

*Thankfulness really does
have a snowball effect.*

Gratitude protects us from negativity in our lives, and it acts as a guard against stress. Thankfulness enhances relationships, both those with our fellow human beings and with God.

Gratitude in Scripture

When I was in elementary school, a teacher required the class to memorize Psalm 100, and I can still recall these words of that short psalm:

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him and bless His name (Ps. 100:4).

Wouldn't the world be a better place if it were compulsory for elementary students to memorize scripture today?

The psalmist wrote, "I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD" (Ps. 116:17). Have you ever thought of thanksgiving as a sacrifice—something to be offered to the Father?

The apostle Paul instructed the church in Ephesus on the need for being grateful: "giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Eph. 5:20). Did you notice that Paul said we should be thankful for all things—not just some things? Can God truly be pleased with us if we express gratitude to Him only in good times? I have sometimes been guilty of not being thankful enough for the presence of God during the bad times, the difficult seasons that we all experience. I once wrote a poem in free verse to help remind me of the need for gratitude and praise for God regardless of my situation.

I Will Praise You

I will speak and believe the words of Jeremiah,
 "Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed;
 Save me, and I shall be saved,
 For You are my praise."

I will praise You, my Father,
 When my heart is wounded,
 When friends betray, and people disappoint.

I will praise You in the emergency room,
And I will praise You at the funeral home.

I will praise You on those dreadful days
When pain and fatigue overwhelm.

I will praise You when hope crumbles,
And I will praise You when joy is quenched.

I will praise You both in good times and evil.
Either my faith is nothing, or it is everything.

Father, I do honor You, I do praise You,
And I marvel at Your power, Your glory, Your love.

I will praise You, morning, noon, and night.

Grant that I may serve You whatever my circumstance,
And let me not outlive my love for You and Your
blessed Son.

Let my last breath whisper Your praise.

From this day forward—no more excuses—I will choose to have
and to express gratitude. I will be thankful.

Answers Required

No Excuses

1. What is one practice that would make the world a more congenial place
in which to live? How do you cultivate that practice?

2. How have you been blessed by your country of origin? Have you
thanked God? How can thanking God make you a better citizen?

3. Who made it possible for you to learn the truth of the gospel? Have you thanked that person? How do you think you would have found Jesus on your own? Discuss Jeremiah 29:13.

4. Why should we give thanks always for all things? Cite a scripture. How is this possible?

5. When has it seemed to be impossible for you to be thankful or grateful? How did you deal with those setbacks?

6. In what ways do we neglect to show gratitude or even seem ungrateful? Explain.

7. Make a list of blessings in your own life for which you should be grateful.

8. Why do we fail to thank God that we are who we are and that it is His grace that has made us so? Are we appreciative of the personalities that He gave us?

9. How can we show our appreciation for spiritual blessings?

10. Is gratitude a daily sacrifice that we should offer to God? Discuss Psalm 116:17.

11. List some ways that we can live so as to offer no excuses for ingratitude.

No Excuses

A Lack of Love

No acceptable excuse exists for not having an attitude of love, not just toward our family and friends but toward all with whom we come in contact. Jesus made that plain when He said:

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another (John 13:34–35).

Am I keeping that commandment? Guy N. Woods once stated that love is a badge of discipleship. Am I wearing my badge?

Defining Love

Several types of love are included in the Greek language: *eros* (sexual love), *philia* (friendship), *storge* (family love), and *agape* (a wholly, selfless nonsexual love). Most of the time the type of love discussed in the Bible is agape love.

Agape love flourishes not *because* of feelings but *despite* feelings. This type of love seeks what is best for others regardless of how we may feel about them. It was the sort of love that Paul wrote about when he said such love would bear all things and endure all things (1 Cor. 13:7). We may tolerate aggravation or