



In everything Give Thanks

The world we live in is always bombarding us with lots of negative things. If you are watching Fake news, you will see that as many reports about the deaths happening because of COVID, few to nothing is said about recoveries and if they do, they will bury it down in small print at the end of their newspapers.

One of the reasons for this is they have discovered that negative sells, yet it is killing us.

One of the antidotes to dealing with the negativity the world is pumping into our homes through TELEVISION is learning to focus on the positive and be a thankful person. Of course, you will have to turn off the TV, but We need to be thankful people in the midst of a negative world. Thanksgiving is powerful. This is one of the most powerful weapons we have for ourselves and against Satan.

- Did you know that one of the ways you can give to God and another person is not material things such as houses, cars, money and so forth? You can give thanks. Thanks, can be given hence the term thanksgiving. It is a form or type of giving.
- Did you know you cannot give thanks and at the same time be complaining? You take a pick.

Some of you are thinking, “I have nothing to be thankful for.” That’s not true! Yes, you do. Everything that has happened in your life has not been negative. Find a place to start. Use your memory. Remember what God has done for you and how He has been there for you. If you have nothing to thank God for, thank God for Rich—Rich Kanyali or Andrew Wommack. Thank Him for blessing, loving me and using me to reach. Do something!

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. —1 Thessalonians 5:18

- a) Giving thanks is the will of God. Everything is not the will of God.
- b) Notice also that this passage of scripture says that we are to give thanks to **IN** everything, not **FOR** everything. Some people have read “For” everything rather than “IN” everything and it has changed the entire meaning of this verse.
 - i) God is not the one behind the bad things that happen to us. We should not be thanking Him for bad things and evil. He has nothing to do with it. For everything the devil has done, God has done something good.

- c) 1 Thessalonians 5:18 goes on in verse 19 to say quench not the Spirit. How do we do that? If we are not thankful, we quench the Spirit. Complaining and murmuring which are the opposites of thanksgiving, do quench the Spirit of God.
- d) 1 Peter 3:10 says *“For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:”*
 - i) Evil can include many things such as deception, vulgar words, cursing, and so forth, but it also includes complaining, griping and murmuring which are the opposite of thanksgiving. If we want to see good days, we need to do the opposite of speaking evil which is thanksgiving.
 - ii) Also, notice that this passage of scripture says we have to **SEE good days** if we are to experience these good days.
 - What do you see? We play a major part in seeing good days of good health, financial freedom, and prosperity, peace, increase, generosity and influence. Those that are constantly seeing and seeking evil and bad days (COVID days) will not see good days because they are seeing bad days.
 - We need to consciously see good days and one of the best ways to achieve that is through thanksgiving.
 - Thanksgiving causes us to see things in light of what is good, focus on the positive and the good, thereby seeing good days rather than evil days.

Ephesians 5:19-20 *Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; **Giving thanks always for all things** unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;*

- a) We have to be giving thanks always for all things God has done in our lives. This is not saying we give thanks to God for all things, but only those good things which He does and has done in our lives.
- b) This is emphasizing an attitude of thanksgiving for all good things He does, and, IN all things, we find ourselves into.

Psalm 103:2-5 *Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. 3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; 4 Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; 5 Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

- a) If you are a forgetful person, you cannot be a thankful person. Thanksgiving is related to memory and our ability to recall and remember.
- b) When we do not forget but choose to remember, we become very thankful people. As you thank Him, you are caused to remember what God has said and done for you and how faithful He has been.

Give thanks well

1 Corinthians 14:17 *For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.*

- a) One of the benefits of being filled with the Holy Spirit is the ability to give thanks well. Did you know there is a better way to give thanks? This is through speaking in tongues. The Word says you give thanks well or perfectly.
- b) Actually, you do not have to prepare the perfect words to say, vocabulary, and so forth. Tongues are perfect all the time.

It causes you to do an inventory check.

Abound in faith. If you are lacking in faith and are having trouble believing, you need to get into thanksgiving.

Receive with Thanksgiving

I want to focus on one of the benefits of thanksgiving which is receiving from God.

God has already provided for everything we need and has answered all our prayers prayed according to His will speedily, but some have trouble receiving what God has already provided. One of the reasons for this is because some folks are not thankful people. If they are thankful, they can receive what God has provided for them.

1 Timothy 4:3 *Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. —*

1 Timothy 4:4 *For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:*

One of the reasons some people have not received from God is because they are not thankful. We received with thanksgiving.

- a) Thanksgiving accepts and receives. Not being thankful rejects what we need and what we ought to receive from the Lord and others. Whatever we are not thankful for, we have rejected because thanksgiving is what accepts and receives it.

- b) When we give thanks to God, we receipt Him for what He has done for us. We acknowledge and value what He has done and contributed to us. If we do not give Him thanks, we have receipted Him. God appreciates receipts!
- c) This truth of receiving with thanksgiving applies in other areas as well. If you pray and believe you receive (Mark 11:23-24), you will give thanks because you do receive with thanksgiving. If you are not thankful, you won't receive. We receive with thanksgiving. Because we have nothing of our own (John 3:27; 1 Corinthians 4:7), if we do not give thanks, we are illegally taking it. We need to humble ourselves and receive it with thanksgiving.

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