



Thanksgiving. Be ye Thankful

Thanksgiving is not something we do whenever we feel like. It ought to be a lifestyle. We should not be only giving thanks when all things are going well nor just on Thanksgiving Day.

A revelation of God's love, grace, mercy, provision and finished work will cause you to be thankful.

Thanksgiving is a sign that you are walking in grace. You have to choose to be thankful. It's a choice. Thanksgiving causes us to focus on God rather than the problem.

The word "*Thanks or Thanksgiving*" also means "GRACE"

The Presence of God and Thanksgiving

There is something powerful about thanksgiving and the presence of God. The more thankful you are, the more you are in tune, aware and sensitive to the presence of God.

This underscores the need of being thankful.

Psalm 100:4-5 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

- a) How we enter is important. Most people will only pay attention to being in, but it is crucial how we enter. We enter with thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is the key to entrance in the presence of God. If we aren't thankful, we may never enter in.
- b) We ought to enter in with thanksgiving, not with complaining or griping. Some try to enter in with petition. Actually you do not truly breakthrough if you do not enter with thanksgiving. **So Thanksgiving is like a key.**

c) Thanksgiving blesses the Lord.

d) Why should we give thanks?

- i) Psalm 100:5 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Psalm 95:2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

- a) Thanksgiving comes before His presence. The way we come into His presence is through thanksgiving. While we are in thanksgiving, we ought to make a joyful noise to the Lord with Psalms.
- b) It is impossible to be thankful and mad. Thankful people will make a joyful noise unto the Lord. There is a connection between being joyful and thanksgiving. Thankful people will be joyful people and joyful people are joyful because they have this thanksgiving attitude and heart.
- c) The presence of God is always with us, but we aren't

Psalm 140:13 Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy name: the upright shall dwell in thy presence.

- a) The words righteous are used interchangeably with the upright. With this understanding, we see that the righteous shall give **thanks** and shall **dwell** in His presence.
- b) Thanksgiving causes us to dwell in His presence. If you are wanting to dwell in His presence, look no further. Thanksgiving will achieve that.
- c) We **enter** in with **thanksgiving** and we **dwell** there with **thanksgiving**. How we enter is how we stay and dwell there.
- d) It is like faith. We are born again through faith and we remain born again through faith.

What should I give thanks for good or bad?

In everything give thanks

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

- a) Giving thanks is the will of God—not everything.
- b) We are to give thanks to IN everything, not FOR everything.
 - 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.
 - ii) For everything the devil has done, God has done something.

1 Thessalonians 5:19 tells us not to quench 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. In 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:"

Evil can include many things such as deception, vulgar, 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.

Also, notice that this verse says we have to SEE good days to see good days. We can play a major part in seeing good days of good health, financial freedom and prosperity, peace, increase, generosity, and influence. Those that are constantly seeking evil and bad 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 focus on the positive and the good, thereby seeing good days rather than evil days.

- c) 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;**
 - i) We have to be giving thanks always for all things unto God in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

When should I give thanks?

NOW

2 Corinthians 2:14 say, "NOW thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place."

- a) Thanksgiving is for NOW. We do not give thanks tomorrow when things get better, but right now. Not tomorrow, but today. If we can't praise God in the hallway, we won't do so if a door were to open.
- b) What we do when the door is closed speaks volumes to what we would do when it opens.

Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

- a) Our prayer and supplication has to have thanksgiving.

To whom should I give thanks?

THANKS BE TO GOD

2 Corinthians 2:14 say, "Now THANKS BE TO GOD, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place."

- a) Our thanks ought to be unto **GOD**. Why? It is easy to thank everyone else and forget about the very source of our victory and provision. Thank GOD!
- b) 1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In case you missed it the first time, this is repeated by Paul. Who we give thanks to matters the most.

- i) Our thanks must be unto God, not unto men. It is God who is working through people. True thanksgiving should be directed unto the Lord.
- ii) It may look like it is people who are coming through for us, but the truth is and will be that it is the Lord. Thanksgiving ought to be unto God not unto men. This is not to say that we should not be thankful to people but to God above all.
- iii) A person that is thankful to God will be thankful to people.
- iv) When we give thanks, God gives us victory as a gift.

Many thanksgivings unto God

2 Corinthians 9:11-12 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;

- a) Our giving and bountifulness towards others not only meets and supplies for the needs of others, but it also causes them to give thanks unto God.
- b) The more we give; the more opportunity people have to give God thanks. This is one reason to give—so that people give God thanks and praise.
- c) We can give thanks to God indirectly. How? By being generous unto others who in return will give thanks to God. Thankful people are usually generous people.

How do you give thanks?

Tongues for thanksgiving

1 Corinthians 14:15-17 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. [16] Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest? [17] For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.

- a) One of the best forms of thanksgiving is praying in tongues. The Word says we give thanks well when we pray in tongues.

Sing O barren

Isaiah 54:1 Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the Lord.

- a) Are you barren? Break forth into singing! Give thanks!

Thanksgiving Choir

Nehemiah 12:27, 31 And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites out of all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem, to keep the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings, and with singing, with cymbals, psalteries, and with harps. 31 Then I brought up the princes of Judah upon the wall, and appointed two great companies of them that gave thanks, whereof one went on the right hand upon the wall toward the dung gate:

- a) The way we dedicate something is by and through thanksgiving. If we aren't being thankful in our dedication, we aren't making a dedication. Dedication unto God must include thanksgiving and praise unto God.
- b) Nehemiah knew the importance of thanksgiving to the point that he appointed a team to give thanks.

Why Give thanks?

1. ALWAYS causeth us to triumph

2 Corinthians 2:14 says, "Now thanks be unto God, which ALWAYS causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place."

- a) God is ALWAYS causing us to triumph. This does not say SOMETIMES, but ALWAYS. There is a huge difference and I know you know it. When we win, it's God and when we fail, it's the devil. Many have mixed this up and they think, win or fail, it is God. Nothing can be further from the truth!
 - i) Psalm 106:47 Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the heathen, to give thanks unto thy holy name, and to triumph in thy praise.
- b) It is God who causes us to triumph, win, and conquer; not to slack, lose, or be defeated and so, because He causes us to triumph, we give Him thanks.
- c) Each time you win, it is God that caused you to win. Satan does not cause us to win but rather to be defeated. He comes to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10).

2. Many are the wonderful works of God.

Psalm 40:5 Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.

- a) This is one of my favorite thanksgiving verses. The Lord spoke this to me when I was writing down the things He has done in my life. I was overwhelmed to the point that I could not write it all. It was indeed more than I could number.
- b) Many are the wonderful works of God and His goodness towards us.
- c) They cannot be numbered. They are innumerable. We have every cause to be thankful.

3. Abound in faith

Colossians 2:7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

- a) We abound and are established in faith through thanksgiving.
 - i) Thanksgiving releases faith and helps us receive the grace of God. Unthankful people will not receive what God has offered by grace. They aren't thankful because someone receives the credit for making things happen.
- b) To "abound" means "to be in excess" (Strong's concordance)
- c) If we are lacking faith, we need to be thankful. As we give thanks, we will be established in faith.

4. God is our Source—Both Riches and honor come of thee

1 Chronicles 29:10-16 Wherefore David blessed the LORD before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be thou, LORD God of Israel our father, forever and ever. Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. **Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.** But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee. For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding. O LORD our God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee a house for thine holy name cometh of thine hand, and is all thine own.

- a) Kind David prayed one of the most outstanding and powerful prayers of thanksgiving.
- b) He acknowledged that God was the true source of all the wealth and provision that came in for the temple. If we acknowledge that whatever we possess was given to us by God, it is a lot easier to be thankful. This was key in David's prayer. He said that whatever they had given, of the Lord had they received it.
- c) Greatness, victory, glory, power, might, and majesty is the Lord's. He is above all and all belong to Him that is on Heaven and in the earth.

- d) Both riches and honor come of the Lord.
- e) He makes us great and gives us strength.
- f) David said that they took of what was the Lords and gave to Him. They gave Him his very own.
- g) David then says "Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name."
- h) David remembered where they came from. They were strangers and sojourners just as their fathers.

5. Blesses the Lord

Psalm 100:4-5 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: **be thankful unto him, and bless his name.**

- e) How we enter is important. Most people will only pay attention to being in, but it is crucial how we enter. We enter with thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is the key to entrance in the presence of God. If we aren't thankful, we may never enter in.
- f) We ought to enter in with thanksgiving, not with complaining or gripping. Some try to enter in with petition. Actually you do not truly breakthrough if you do not enter with thanksgiving. So Thanksgiving is like a key.
- g) Thanksgiving blesses the Lord.
- h) Why should we give thanks?
 - ii) Psalm 100:5 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

6. Receive with thanksgiving

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.

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

7. Filled with the Glory of God

2 Chronicles 5:13-14 It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD; So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God.

- a) Notice that it was after they were thanking and praising God that the glory of God filled the house.
- b) Under the New Covenant, we are the **temple and house of God**. The glory of God will fill our soul and body when we will walk in thanksgiving.
- c) Thanksgiving causes the temple to be filled with the glory of God.
- d) Notice that we praise by saying "For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever:"

8. Multiplication

Matthew 15:36 And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

- a) What do you do when you do not have enough? Do you curse it? Do you speak death over it? Not Jesus.
- b) Here is an example of what Jesus did when what He had seemed little or not enough.
 - i) Jesus blessed the food and gave thanks and the result was multiplication.

- c) Thanksgiving is key to multiplication.
- d) Thanksgiving preceded the manifestation of this miracle.

9. Dangers of not being thankful—Vain imagination, foolish heart darkened,

Romans 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Being unthankful is very detrimental to us more than we have ever imagined. We need to cultivate the heart of thanksgiving.

- a) Vain imagination
- b) Foolish heart darkened
- c) The absence of thanksgiving causes darkness in our hearts to prevail.

10. Magnifies the Lord

Psalm 69:30 I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.

- a) Thanksgiving magnifies the Lord. As we sing and praise the name of the Lord in thanksgiving, we magnify the Lord.

11. Thanksgiving and praise = Strength

Psalm 8:2 "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou **ordained strength** because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger."

- a) Matthew 21:16 "And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast **perfected praise**?"

b) Notice the commentary of the Holy Spirit through Jesus. Jesus through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit quoted and interchangeably used "**ordained strength**" with "**perfected praise.**"

c) This would mean that:

i) Praise is strength.

□ As we praise the Lord, we release strength into our lives.

ii) The Joy of the Lord is our strength (Nehemiah 8:10).

iii) Like praise, joy is also strength. Joy will still (quiet) the enemy and the avenger.

□ As we praise the Lord, we enter into joy and this stills the enemy.

12. Earth yields her increase

Psalm 67:5-7 Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. [6] Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us. [7] God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

a) One of the reasons we aren't seeing fruitfulness in our lives is because we aren't giving thanks.

b) Giving thanks releases the power that causes the earth to increase. As we praise the Lord, increase will come.

c) However, we have to be careful not to have a heart of praising God for increase.

i) Everything else is a byproduct.

ii) Thanksgiving does not manipulate nor twist God's hands.

13. Victory—Thanksgiving precedes victory

1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- a) If we want to see and continually experience victory, we need to give thanks first. Thanksgiving is a door to manifestation and victory.
- b) If you aren't experiencing victory, begin to focus on the goodness of God, and give thanks.
- c) An unthankful lifestyle will cause our hearts to be darkened and insensitive to God (Romans 1:20).

14. Peace—Peace and Thanksgiving

Leviticus 7:11-13 And this is the law of the sacrifice of peace offerings, which he shall offer unto the LORD. If he offer it for a thanksgiving, then he shall offer with the sacrifice of thanksgiving unleavened cakes mingled with oil, and unleavened wafers anointed with oil, and cakes mingled with oil, of fine flour, fried. Besides the cakes, he shall offer for his offering leavened bread with the sacrifice of thanksgiving of his peace offerings.

- a) Thanksgiving and peace go together. If you are not experiencing peace, you have not been giving thanks. Giving Thanks keeps our mind stayed upon the Lord and the result is peace.

15. Awake and Alert—Watch

Col 4:2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

- a) The word "watch" here means to keep awake, stay alert be vigilant and/or strict attention. This passage teaches that the way we stay alert is by thanksgiving. If we aren't being thankful, we aren't being alert, awake, or vigilant.
- b) Thanksgiving helps us to stay awake and alert in prayer.

16. Sacrifice of Thanksgiving

Psalm 107:22 And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.

Psalm 116:17 I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD.

- a) Giving thanks is a sacrifice. Sacrifice is one that you give up or surrender.
- b) One way we offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving is by:
 - i) Declaring the works of the Lord with rejoicing (Singing).
 - ii) Calling upon the name of the Lord.

Example's

17. Paul and Silas

Acts 16:25-26 And at **midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God:** and the prisoners heard them. [26] And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

- a) When they gave thanks, the foundations of the prison were shaken.
- b) What is prison? This could refer widely to something or anything that is holding you back. It could be sickness, poverty, lack, and so forth.
 - i) It is a state of confinement or captivity.
 - ii) A place of bondage. The foundations of their problems were shaken.
- c) Notice it says the prisoners heard them. Why? Because what these two did was unusual. It drew their attention. They weren't people in prison praising God. This was not the norm if anything.

18. King Jehoshaphat

2 Chronicles 20:18-23 And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the Lord, worshipping the Lord. [19] And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites, stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel with a loud voice on high. [20] And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper. [21] And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the Lord, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the Lord; for his mercy endureth for ever. [22] And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten. [23] For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another.

- a) Some might be thinking that it is not for today to see thanksgiving and/or praise produce these results. If you do not believe it, it won't work for you.
- b) Praising and thanksgiving unto the Lord is much more powerful and stronger than an army or any intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).
- c) This strategy employed in this place could have been totally different. It could have been a military approach, but it was a praise and thanksgiving approach.
- d) Hardly would military experts have encouraged or advised the king and/or president to proceed this way.
 - i) **This approach would have been considered dumb and irrational, yet it produced the best results without losing a single life of the children of Israel.**
- e) We have to be led. The apparent answer may not be the right approach. God has multiple ways of killing a rat!

19. It is finished

- a) Thanksgiving focuses on the finished work of God. We say thank people when something is finished.
- b) If you do not have anything to give thanks for, start with the finished work of the Cross.
- c) Some things we can be thankful for as laid out in the Word as a result of the finished work on the cross.
 - o Which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saint in light. (Col 1:12)
 - o Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son. (Colossians 1:13)
 - o Redemption—the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:14, Eph 1:7)
 - o Peace of God. (Romans 5:1)
 - o Reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)
 - o Eternal Redemption. (Hebrews 9:12)
 - o More than Conquerors. (Romans 8:37)
 - o Children of God. (Rom 8:16)
 - o Sons of God. (Romans 8:14)
 - o Triumph in Christ Jesus. (2 Corinthians 2:14)
 - o Salvation. (Ephesians 2:8, Titus 3:5, 2 Peter 3:9, 1 Timothy 2:4)
 - o Better covenant established on better promises. (Hebrews 8:6-7)
 - o New Creature. (2Cor 5:17)
 - o No one can be against us. (Romans 8:31)
 - o Indwelling presence of God. (Colossians 1:27)
 - o Power and Authority over all the power of the enemy. (Luke 10:19)
 - o Redeemed from the curse of the law. (Galatians 3:13)
 - o Who hath blessed us. (Ephesians 1:3)
 - o His grace. (Ephesians 1:6)
 - o Richness in Mercy. (Ephesians 2:4)
 - o Accepted in the Beloved. (Ephesians 1:6)
 - o Hath abounded toward us all wisdom and prudence. (Ephesians 1:8)
 - o Made known unto us the mystery of His will. (Ephesians 1:9)
 - o Sealed with the Holy Spirit of Promise. (Ephesians 1:13)

- We were dead in trespasses, He hath quickened us. (Ephesians 2:1)
- Sanctified and perfected forever. (Hebrews 10:12, 14)
- Have been given the same power that raised Christ from the dead. (Eph. 1:19-20)
- Have been made the one new man. (Eph. 2:15)
- Have been made fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God. (Eph. 2:19)
- And have become a holy temple in the Lord. (Eph. 2:21)
- A habitation of God. (Eph. 2:22)
- Chosen us before the Foundation of the World. (Eph 1:4)
- Raised us up together, and made us sit together in Heavenly places in Christ Jesus. (Eph 2:7)
- His workmanship created in Christ Jesus. (Eph 2:9)
- Made nigh by the blood of Christ. (Eph 2:13)
- Our Peace. (Eph. 2:14)
- Our Life. (Col 3:4)
- Access to the Father. (Eph 2:18)
- No more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God. (Eph 2:19)