

THANKSGIVING

“Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” – Ephesians 5:19-20

“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

To be thankful in all circumstances, we need a proper perspective of our circumstances and of our God.

Three Attitudes that Prevent Gratitude –

1. _____.
2. _____.
3. _____.

Because of pride, carelessness, or a critical spirit, we will never be truly thankful for all that God has given us.

Thanks – A word that is too seldom heard and too rarely spoken and too often forgotten.

If any nation ought to be thankful to God and grateful for his goodness, it ought to be America.

Three Things Scripture Teaches about Thanksgiving –

1. _____.

“Rise and go; your faith has made you whole.” – Luke 17:19

We are made whole by our thanksgiving.

Sincere gratitude, thanksgiving, is the healthiest of all human emotions.

“Gratitude produces more positive energy than any other attitude in life.” – Hans Selye

“For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.” – Romans 1:21

You say thank you to God when you... 1. Spend time with Him. 2. Forgive others. 3. Serve in His church. 4. Share His plan of salvation. 5. Reach out to hurting people. 6. Give God the best of your time – talent – treasure. 7. Praise Him enthusiastically from the heart.

2. _____.

As our thanksgiving expands, it includes three things –

- I. _____.
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II. _____.

“Give thanks in all circumstances.” – 1 Thess. 5:18 “Always give thanks.” – Ephesians 5:20

“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing to the glory that will be revealed in us.” – Romans 8:18

“That is why for Christ’s sake, I delight in weakness, in insults, in hardships, in persecution, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” – 2 Corinthians 12:10

“Now I want you to know brothers that what has happened to me has really served to advance the Gospel.” – Philippians 1:12

Understand others can come to Christ because of your example – especially in the midst of difficult times.

III. _____.

We are constantly adding to our prayer list but more than anything we should be adding to our praise list.

3. _____.

“Give thanks in all circumstances, because this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” – 1 Thes. 5:18

Thanksgiving is the mark of –

I. _____.

II. _____.

For thanksgiving to be real... there must be thanks and there must be giving.

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the father of lights.” – James 1:17

III. _____.

You will not be constantly critical and pessimistic but eternally thankful.

“We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed but not in despair; persecuted but not abandoned; struck down but not destroyed. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but what is unseen.” – 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, 17-18

“It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord.” – Psalm 92:1

Reflect: How will you apply this teaching? What really stood out to you in this message?
