

Sermon central video Forget Something?

Ephesians 5:20... Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18... ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

“One man said: I dreamt that I went to Heaven and an angel was showing me around. We walked side-by-side into a large workroom filled with angels. My angel guide stopped in front of the first section and said, "This is the **Receiving Section**. Here all petitions are received that are sent to God in prayer." I looked around in this area, and it was terribly busy with so many angels sorting out petitions written on voluminous paper sheets and scraps from people all over the world.

Then we moved on down a long corridor to the second section.

There angel said to me, "This is the **Packaging and Delivery Section**. Here the graces and blessings the people asked for are processed and delivered to the living persons who asked for them." I noticed again how busy it was there. Since so many blessings had been requested and were being packaged for delivery to Earth, there were many angels working hard at that station.

Finally, at the farthest end of the long corridor, we stopped at the door of a very small station. To my great surprise, only one angel was seated there, not doing anything at all. "This is the **Acknowledgment Section**," my angel friend quietly whispered to me. He seemed embarrassed. "How is it that there is no work going on here?" I asked. "It's so sad," the angel sighed. "After people receive the blessings that they asked for, very few send back acknowledgments." "How does one acknowledge God's blessings?" I asked. "Simple," the angel answered. Just say, "Thank you, Lord." "What blessings should they acknowledge?" I asked.

"If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep you are richer than 75% of this world. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy. If you get this on your own computer, you are part of the 1% in the world who have that opportunity.

"And if you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the many who will not even survive this day. If you've never experienced fear in battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are more blessed than 700 million other people in the world. "If you can attend a church without the fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death you are envied by, and more blessed than, three billion people in the world. (adapted from

http://www.sermoncentral.com/print_friendly.asp?ContributorID=&SermonID=40858 Steve Malone)

Our Focus today is on ThanksGiving & ThanksLiving

Rudyard Kipling Illustration. \$100 words. A critical newspaper reporter came up to Rudyard Kipling at the height of his writing career and said. "I heard your writings are so well received that you get a \$100 per words." Kipling replied surprisingly "really, I certainly wasn't aware of that". The reporter then pulled out a \$100 bill and disrespectfully said "give me one of those \$100 words... Kipling wisely and calmly said 'THANKS'" (adapted from http://www.sermoncentral.com/print_friendly.asp?ContributorID=&SermonID=40858 Steve Malone)

Thanks. A word we are taught at an early age. A word we teach our own kids at a very early age. “What do you say?” is a question our kids hear all most as soon as they can talk. We encourage our kids at a very early age to say “Thank you”.

What Does ThanksGiving & ThanksLivng Look Like?

I. Thinking Thankfully

- a. Taking Every Thought Captive
- b. Proper Perspective
- c. Dwelling On What God Has Said And What He’s Done

II. Talking Thankfully

- a. To God
- b. To People

III. Acting Thankfully

- a. Sacrificing – OUR TIME
- b. Serving – OUR TALENTS
- c. Sharing – OUR TREASURES

How can we live a life of gratitude and praise?

1. Thinking Thankfully

➤ **Thinking Thankfully begins with taking captive our every thought.**

2 Corinthians 10:5...*We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

Philippians 4:6-8...*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Finally, brothers and sisters) whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-- think about such things.*

➤ **Thinking Thankfully requires the proper perspective**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18...¹⁶ *Rejoice always!* ¹⁷ *Pray constantly.* ¹⁸ *Give thanks in everything, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.*

1 Timothy 6:6-8...*Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we should be content.*

Philippians 4:13...*I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me.*

One young lady wrote home from college,

"Dear Mom: Sorry I haven't written sooner. My arm really has been broken. I broke it, and my left leg, when I jumped from the second floor of my dormitory...when we had the fire. We were lucky. A young service station attendant saw the blaze and called the Fire Department. They were there in minutes. I was in the hospital for a few days. Paul, the service station attendant, came to see me every day. And because it was taking so long to get our dormitory liveable again, I moved in with him. He has been so nice. I must admit that I am pregnant. Paul and I plan to get married just as soon as he can get a divorce. I hope things are fine at home. I'm doing fine, and will write more when I get the chance. Love, Your daughter, Susie

P.S. None of the above is true. But I did get a "C" in Sociology and flunked Chemistry. I just wanted you to receive this news in its "Proper Perspective!"

To be thankful in all circumstances, we need a proper perspective of our circumstances and of our God. Only then we will be able to give thanks to the Lord always.

➤ Thinking Thankfully Focuses On What God Has Done For You And Said To You

Psalm 9:1... *"I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds."*

Ephesians 1:3... *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,*

2. Talking Thankfully

a. To God

Psalm 95:1-3... ¹ *Come, let us shout joyfully to the LORD, shout triumphantly to the rock of our salvation!* ² *Let us enter His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout triumphantly to Him in song.* ³ *For the LORD is a great God, a great King above all gods.*

Psalm 100:1-5... ¹ *Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.* ² *Worship the LORD with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs.* ³ *Know that the LORD is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.* ⁴ *Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name.* ⁵ *For the LORD is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.*

Talk thankfully about God throughout your daily life as well as in worship on Sunday's

b. To People

Hebrews 10:24... *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,*

When was the last time you told your spouse, "I'm really thankful that I'm married to you."? Do you tell you kids that you appreciate them? Do you thank your spouse for cooking dinner and doing the laundry? Do you let God know how thankful you are for what He has done in your life? If you are a believer in God, saved by grace, you have a lot to be thankful for. No matter how bad life gets, you still can't complain. It is also important that we verbally tell others what we are grateful for. I know that it is kind

of an expected tradition to go around the table at thanksgiving time and share what you are thankful for, and to be honest, I've never been a big fan of that sharing time. But I'm beginning to learn how important doing that is. We all have so much to be thankful for. And I want to take some time right now to give you the opportunity to share what you are thankful for this year.

Numbers 6:24-26... The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Ruth 2:12... May the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge, reward you fully for what you have done.

Ephesians 1:15-17...For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better.

3. Acting Thankfully

a. Sacrificing – OUR TIME

Psalms 90:12... Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

John 9:4... As long as it is day, we must do the works of Him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.

Ephesians 5:16.....¹⁵ Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

b. Serving – OUR TALENTS

Ephesians 2:10... For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

1 Peter 4:10,11... ¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

We need to demonstrate a life of thankfulness in everything we do. That begins with a heart of service. Serving is a demonstration of appreciation, respect, and love. It can be done in a selfish, ungrateful way, but when it is done right, it is a blessing both to the server and the servee.

c. Sharing – OUR TREASURES

2 Corinthians 9:7... Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Luke 6:38... Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

Acts 20:35... In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

"Giving back to God is a way of thanking Him for his blessing and provision. Even if we don't have a lot, or a lot to give, when we give back to God we show that we understand that He owns it all anyway. Don't give out of guilt or compulsion.

Every time you write an offering check or put a dollar in the offering plate, take a second to say, thank you God for everything you have given me. We can act thankfully by sharing what we have. This might take the form of sharing some of our abundance with those who don't have as much. It might be sharing with the homeless or needy. People who really understand thankfulness and appreciation usually are very good at sharing with others. They know how great it feels to give. This doesn't just apply to sharing our stuff, but, more importantly, sharing our faith. If you have a real understanding of who Jesus Christ is, what He has done for all mankind, and what He has done in your life, you are going to be looking for every opportunity to share that with others. We can best show our appreciation for our salvation by praising God and telling others. If our faith is truly transforming, and valuable, and important, we will share it with those who don't have it.

The best thing about living a thankful life is that it helps us put things into perspective. When we focus on the great things that God has done for us, the annoying junk in life has a way of losing its importance. During this thanksgiving seasons let's begin to train our minds to think thankfully. Let's take the opportunity to talk thankfully, and let's demonstrate our appreciation by acting thankfully.

(Adapted from Andy Flowers.http://www.sermoncentral.com/print_friendly.asp?ContributorID=&SermonID=114246)

1 Thessalonians 5:18.... Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Authentic & Genuine Followers of Christ Commit to

ThanksGiving & ThanksLiving