

REVISED THANKSGIVING EVE REFLECTION

I Thessalonians 5:18; Hebrews 13:15-16; Psalm 100:4

Compiled by Tammy Springer for November 26, 2025, 7:00pm

At this Thanksgiving time, we are busy preparing foods like turkey and potatoes and pies and casseroles.....and usually there's always bread! Sometimes many kinds of rolls, breads, muffins and fresh buns!! Makes my mouth water just thinking of it!!

But, Thanksgiving is not just a holiday where people eat good food. **For the Christ-follower, Thanksgiving is a way of life. It is about thanking God for everything He has done.** It is about having a grateful heart, even when things are not perfect.

I Thessalonians 5:18 says, *"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."* This means that, no matter what is happening, good or bad, we should still thank God.

Why, you ask, should we thank God?

1. **Because He gives us life.** If you are breathing right now, it is because of God. Many people did not wake up today, but we all did! That is a blessing!
2. **Because He provides for us.** Maybe we don't have everything we want, but we have what we need. We have food, clothes, a place to sleep. That is God taking care of us. (And, if we are honest, most of us have a lot of what we want as well!)
3. **Because He loves us.** Even when we make mistakes, God still loves us. HE does not give up on us. That alone is a reason to be thankful!

So, as you can see, we have many reasons to say thanks to God! But **how can we SHOW that we are thankful to God?**

First of all, we can just open our mouths and **say, "Thank You, Lord!"** It is that simple. When we wake up, we can say, "Thank You, Lord." Before we go to sleep, we can say, "Thank You, Lord." And we can do it anytime in between!

Secondly, we can show our thankfulness by **living according to God's commands.** When we obey God, it shows that we are thankful for His guidance and that we honor Him. If someone gives you a gift and you destroy it, it shows you don't value it. But if you take care of it, they will know you are grateful. In the same way, **when we obey God, we show that we value His blessings.**

Thirdly, we can **help others.** When God blesses us, we shouldn't keep it all to ourselves. God wants us to share with others. If we have food, we can share with someone who is

hungry. If we have love, we can give some away to person who is lonely. These are ways we can SHOW we are thankful to God.

Hebrews 13:15-16 says, *“Let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that openly profess His name....and do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is well-pleased.”*

Finally, **what happens when we give thanks?**

One thing that happens is **God gives us more!** When God sees that we appreciate what He has done, He blesses us with more! Think about that. If we give someone a gift and they don't say thank you, will we feel like giving them more? Probably not. But, if they are grateful, we will want to give them much more!

Another thing that happens when we give thanks is that **it invites God's presence.** God loves to be where there is thanksgiving! When we thank Him, His presence fills our life.

A third thing that happens when we give thanks is that **it brings joy!** A thankful heart is a happy heart. People who always complain are never happy. But when we are grateful, we feel peace and joy.

Psalms 100:4 says, *“Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name.”*

Take a minute right now to **think of three things for which you are thankful.** It could be your family, your health, your job or even the fact that you ate today. **When we focus on the good things, we will start to see how much God has done for us.**

Thanksgiving is not just about words. It is about how we live. When we thank God, He blesses us even more! If we want to be the light of God with credibility, we must live by the standards God's word lays out for our lives. Even when the world around us embraces evil, we are to stand firm in our faith and live clean, innocent lives. When others lie, we tell the truth. When others let greed rule their choices, we are generous. This is how we say, show and live out our thankfulness to God and shine for Jesus in a broken world.

So, **this Thanksgiving**, instead of complaining about how much there is to do and what we don't have, **let's thank God for what we DO have.** When we wake up tomorrow, let's just say, **“Thank You, Lord.”**

Amen.