Psalm 69:30

I will praise the name of God with a song, and magnify Him with thanksgiving.

A LIFESTYLE OF THANKSGIVING

Many times, we dwell so much on the adverse circumstances that we fail to be thankful for the good things. Often, we ask God for something, and He accommodates us. But we neglect to thank Him for answering our requests. When we encounter difficult circumstances, we complain instead of thanking God for delivering us from the situation. Several passages in the Bible command us to give thanks to God. But how should we express thanks? Here are five different ways we can express gratitude to our Heavenly Father:

- Make It a Habit. As believers, giving thanks to God who has blessed
 us beyond measure should not be something we need to be
 reminded of. Thanksgiving should naturally flow out from within us.
- Be Courteous. Thankfulness is normally associated with getting something and showing your appreciation for it. Certainly, we should say thank you. The same holds true with God. He has done so much for us and has given us countless blessings.
- An Act of Worship. Expressing thanks is an integral part of worship
 for every believer. The Psalmist worshipped God with thanksgiving
 for what He had already done and what He was going to do.
 Likewise, we should give thanks to God as an act of our individual
 worship.

- An Act of Love. When we love God, we don't take Him or His blessings for granted. We express our love and gratitude by giving Him thanks!
- An Act of Faith. Expressing thanks is an act of faith because we are
 declaring that our present blessings came from God. We are also
 giving thanks because we believe that the future blessings are on
 their way. This is what real faith is all about: thanking God ahead of
 time that His promises are going to come to pass in our lives.

God commands us to be thankful, both for our good and His glory. In fact, thankfulness should become a lifestyle for us. We should be in such a habit of expressing thanks that we do it automatically.

There are many examples of people in the Bible who exemplified a lifestyle of thanksgiving. Daniel continued praying and giving thanks to God after it was decreed that no one should pray to another God or man except the king (Daniel 6:10). David continually prayed a prayer of thanksgiving (Psalm 9:1-2). The Apostle Paul always praised God in the midst of difficult circumstances. Paul was in prison when he wrote, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6). Let's always remember to praise God for bringing us through every circumstance and situation that comes our way. Like the Apostle Paul, we can also confess that, "Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ" (2 Corinthians 2:14).

May the Lord bless His Word in your heart. Please feel free to leave us a message at: info@talkgospel.org