

THANKFULNESS: A KEY TO LIVING A BLESSED LIFE

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Thankfulness is a powerful practice that we see modeled throughout the Bible. In particular, Jesus Christ, our Savior, exemplified this attitude in various aspects of His life. This piece is dedicated to exploring the different instances where Jesus expressed gratitude and the lessons we can draw from His actions.

Jesus Gave Thanks for Food

One of the most remarkable instances where Jesus expressed gratitude was during the miraculous feeding of five thousand people. As recorded in Matthew 14:18-19 (NIV), Jesus showed us how to give thanks for our daily bread. "Bring them here to me," he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people."

Jesus Gave Thanks That His Prayers Were Answered

Jesus also showed us how to give thanks for answered prayers. In John 11:40-42 (NIV), even before Lazarus was raised from the dead, Jesus thanked God for hearing His prayers. This shows His confidence in God's promises and readiness to fulfill them. "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

Jesus Gave Thanks That The Father Revealed Truth to Common People

Another instance is seen in Matthew 11:25-26 (MSG). Jesus thanked the Father for revealing the truth to those who were humble and simple in heart. This shows that understanding and wisdom come not from human knowledge but from God's revelation. "Thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth. You've concealed your ways from sophisticates and know-it-alls, but spelled them out clearly to ordinary people. Yes, Father, that's the way you like to work."

Jesus Gave Thanks for The Provision of God in The Midst of Suffering

Finally, in the midst of His impending suffering and death, Jesus gave thanks for God's provision. As we see in Luke 22:17-19 (NIV), He thanked God for the bread, which symbolized His body, and the wine, which represented His blood. This act of thankfulness in the face of suffering is a powerful testament to His unwavering faith in God's plan. "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

Lessons We Can Learn From Jesus' Thankfulness

From Jesus' examples, we learn that thankfulness isn't just an emotion or a response to favorable circumstances. It's an attitude that we cultivate in our hearts, regardless of our situations. It's a confidence in God's plans and provisions. It's an integral part of practicing the presence of God in our lives.

As Christians, we're called to adopt this attitude of thankfulness in all circumstances as stated in 1 Thessalonians 5:18. "Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus."

In conclusion, thankfulness is a powerful practice that keeps us focused on God's goodness and faithfulness. It strengthens our faith, deepens our relationship with God, and brings joy to our lives. So, let us follow Jesus' example and cultivate a heart of gratitude, trusting in God's plan. Thank you, Jesus!

Thankfulness practices the presence of God.

How can you be thankful and invite God in all circumstances?

Thankfulness is confidence in God's Plan.

What practical ways can you be thankful in recognizing that God is with you in all circumstances?

Faith and an attitude of gratitude always go together.

Begin to increase your faith by sharing with your group all that you are thankful for in your life.

Thankful people trust God and serve others like Jesus.

How can you express trust in God through your thankfulness and serving others?