

Thankfulness



God's Will - Thankfulness in all Things

Thankfulness changes an atmosphere. Where there was doubt and complaining, thankfulness causes faith and expectancy to arise. Thankfulness ushers in the presence of God. Where there was confusion and stress, thankfulness causes peace and rest to arise. Thankfulness attracts the blessing of the Lord, as it brings honor to Him and His Kingdom Reign. Thankfulness is a language of **covenant, worship** and **faith!**

Even in times when it doesn't seem like there's much to be thankful for, make a decision to give your love and thanks to the Lord. As you move your thoughts toward thankfulness, your mind and heart will find open doors to more and more things to be thankful for. A thankful heart and mouth is the anecdote for discouragement. Discouragement **cannot** remain where thankfulness abounds!

Scriptures: 1Thessalonians 5:16–18, Colossians 2:6–7, Colossians 4:2, 2 Corinthians 4:14–16

- *What does the positive impact of thankfulness have on you, your family, and your church? How can we pro-actively be thankful in our lives? How can we encourage people to be thankful when they are ungrateful/complainers/negative?*

Songs of Thankfulness

The book of Psalms is dripping with thanks and praise to our God—our Deliverer! Take courage—there is grace for us to sing songs of thanksgiving to our God. As a Spirit filled believer, it will rise up out of us with joy - regardless of the circumstances! The enemy hates the sound of praise and thanks; he cannot remain in that atmosphere, because he knows he has been defeated. Our thanksgiving shows the enemy that we know he has been defeated—and that he has no hold on us!

Scriptures: Colossians 3:15–17, Psalm 100:1–5, Psalm 8:2 (TPT), Jeremiah 30:19 (TPT), Hebrews 13:15, Ephesians 5:18b–20

- *Can you share a time you encountered God through songs of thanksgiving and deliverance?*

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Thankfulness Infused with Prayer

In the Old Testament, God ordained priests, like Mattaniah—who was King David’s chief worship leader—appointed to lead the people in thanksgiving with prayer. A thankful heart is full of faith, and a faithful heart is full of thanksgiving. Again, thanksgiving is covenant language with God! When you thank the Father for answered prayers that have not yet manifested, you are demonstrating your trust in His faithful character. Why? Because you believe that you received what you asked of Him the moment it came out of your mouth. Your past victories strengthen your thankful heart, because you have come to know Him experientially in the realm of prayer!

Scriptures: Colossians 4:2, Philippians 4:4–8, Nehemiah 11:17

- *How has being thankful in prayer impacted your time with the Lord? Discuss the correlations in scripture between prayer and thanksgiving.*

Simple Gratitude

Simple gratitude reminds us that God is Good, and He is everything He says He is. Every good and perfect gift comes from Him. The greatest and most perfect gift He gave is the gift of salvation through His son Jesus Christ. Gratitude keeps us in the state of appreciation, and keeps us from taking for granted the many blessings He’s given us.

This includes being thankful for people, those that have blessed us, and, yes the difficult ones as well. When Paul prayed, he thanked God for every remembrance of those in Philippi. Think about that! He remembered their deep fellowship, and in doing so, it produced thanksgiving to God. We, too, can be such a blessing to others (in various ways) that our lives will cause them to give thanks to the Father. That is powerful. Let our lives overflow with gratitude and lead others into thanksgiving!

Scriptures: Philippians 1:3–8, Ephesians 1:15–16, 1 Thessalonians 1:2, 1 Corinthians 9:11–15

- *Discuss gratitude in the little things, and how it affects your thought life. Has there ever been someone who tested you, but you chose to be thankful for them—and it changed both you and them? Is there anyone who has caused you to give thanks to God because of the blessing they are to you?*
