

Giving Thanks.....

What Does The Bible Say

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Introduction:

This once again is the season for us to give thanks, but let's be clear that giving thanks is not a seasonal affair but should happen year round. Giving thanks is not just verbal but the hope that giving thanks becomes a lifestyle. All of us have reasons to give thanks and if we are honest the list is endless.

What Does The Bible Say

We are thankful for the following:

- * A relationship with Jesus Christ
- * Understanding that we will spend eternity with Jesus
- * We are forgiven for our sins
- * That God hears and answers our prayers
- * That the earth is not our home, but our eternal resting place is in heaven
- * That we have the gift of the Holy Spirit (which guides and leads us)

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We are also thankful for:

- * Life, health and strength
- * Protection and provision
- * The ability to walk, talk, hear, see, taste and smell
- * Having a home to live in and a loving family
- * Understanding that God has given us more than we could ever imagine
- * That God still allows for our dreams to come true

What Does The Bible Say

Thanksgiving-is a natural response to blessings, protection or love. In the Judeo-Christian tradition, thankfulness is not a tool use to manipulate the will of God. It is never coerced or fabricated in one's mind; rather, gratitude is joyful commitment of one's personality to God.

In the Old Testament, gratitude or thanksgiving to God was the only condition in which life could be enjoyed. For Jews, every aspect of the creation provided evidence of God's lordship over all life. The Hebrew people thanked him for the magnificence of the universe (Psalm 19:1-4, 33:6-9, 104:1-24). When they received good news, they thanked him for his goodness and great deeds (I Chronicles 16:8-12). When they received bad news, they also gave thanks, trusting that he was a just God (Job 1:21). (Elwell, W.A. & Comfort, P.W. (2001). In Tyndale Bible dictionary (pp.551-552) Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

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The magnificence of the universe:

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun. Psalm 19:1-4

Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to him on the ten stringed lyre. Sing to him a new song; play skillfully and shout for joy. For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love. By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. Psalm 33:6-9

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Thanksgiving for goodness and great deeds:

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Look to the Lord and his strength seek his face always. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles and the judgements he pronounced. I Chronicles 16:8-12

Thanksgiving even for bad news:

At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised. In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing. Job 1:20-22

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know the testing of your faith produces perseverance. James 1:2

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Learning to give thanks in all seasons is important for the child of God. Many of us believe in giving thanks, but if we are truthful we do not mind giving thanks when all is going well for us. How does the believer embrace every season and learn that giving thanks can happen all the time?

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What are we ask to do?

I will bless the Lord at all times and his praise shall continually be in my mouth. Psalm 34:1

Give thanks in every circumstance for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. I Thessalonians 5:18

Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! Psalm 107:1

I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving. Psalm 69:30

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All of us have reasons to give thanks unto God: for his unfailing love, his provision, his protection, his keeping power, and his grace and mercy. We can go throughout the Holy Bible and we have a litany of biblical characters who gave thanks unto God.

David gives thanks unto God.....I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods sings your praise; I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word. Psalm 138:1-2

Hannah gives thanks unto God....Hannah prayed: The Lord has filled my heart with joy; I feel very strong in the Lord. I can laugh at my enemies; I am glad because you have helped me! I Samuel 2:1

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The Ten Lepers: Luke 17:11-17

- * All were healed
- * All were transformed
- * Jesus responded to their plea
- * He answered their prayer
- * Only one returned to say “thanks”

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Additional scriptures:

Pslam 104:1-24, Psalm 150, Ephesians 5:20, Psalm 100, I
Chronicles 16:34, Hebrews 13:15, Colossians 4:2, Psalm 95,
Luke 17:12-19

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Peace be unto you....

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