



Giving Thanks

1 Chron. 16:34- "Give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever."

Since we are getting ready for "Thanksgiving," I thought it appropriate that we talk about this. As Christians our thanksgiving should never cease. Thanksgiving should be a characteristic of all of the redeemed, not just on Thanksgiving but every day of your life. You may have things bad but things could be worse.

- I. Psalm 105:1 says, *"O give **thanks** unto the LORD; call upon His name: make known His deeds among the people."*
 - II. 1 Thess.1:2 says, *"We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers."*
 - III. Eph. 1:16 says, *"Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers."*
 - IV. Col. 1:9, the Bible says, *"For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding."*
- A.** In Psalm 105:1, we are told to do three things.
1. First, to give thanks to the Lord;
 2. Secondly to call upon His name; and,
 3. Third, make known His deeds to the people.
- B.** We can never be without something to praise the Lord for in life. There is an old song I heard years ago called, *"I Just Can't Praise Him Enough."*

What a wonderful truth that song expresses!

C. Here are four simple things I thank the Lord for today:

1. **The Lifting Of the Load.**
2. **The Lord I've Loved.**
3. **The Lessons I've Learned.**
4. **The Light I Look Through.**

1. The first thing I thank the Lord for today is:

a. **The Lifting Of the Load.** In Matt. 11:29-30, the Bible says, *"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me: for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

Jesus is the great load lifter. The primary load He has lifted from me is the load of sin.

I spoke with a young man some time back that had just been saved.

I asked him how he felt. The young man said, "I feel as light as a feather."

God had lifted the load of sin from him, and he sensed that load being removed from him.

2. The second thing I thank Him for today is:

a. **The Lord I've Loved.** In 1 John 4:19, the Bible says, *"We love Him, because He first loved us."*

First, the cause of our love for Him is the fact that He loved me before I ever knew and loved Him. I have not seen Him, but still I love Christ and He is so very real to my soul.

Secondly, the continuance of our love should be attended to and nourished when it comes to our blessed Lord.

3. The third thing I thank Him for today is:

a. **The Lessons I've Learned.**

1. We learn all of our lessons in at least three ways.

a. One way is through experience. Sometimes learning in that way is very difficult and is often unnecessary. Some things would be better learned that we might not have to go through some unpleasant experience.

2. Another way we learn is through others. Sometimes if we listened to wise people it would save us from a lot of troubles.

3. A third way we learn is through the examples of the Scriptures. In Rom. 15:4, the Bible says, *“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”*

4. The fourth thing I thank Him for today is:

a. **The Light I Look Through.** In 1 Peter 2:9, the Bible says, *“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”* He has called us *“out of darkness into His marvelous light.”*

There is *“new light”* to understand the Scriptures and to comprehend spiritual things. In 1 Cor. 2:14, the Bible says, *“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”* Light enables us to see.

D. Why Give Thanks?

The psalmist said in Psalm 35:18, *“I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people.”*

You can be sure that the Bible encourages and commands the people of God to give thanks to our blessed and glorious Lord.

There is something about the grateful heart that brings pleasure and satisfaction to the heart of the holy and righteous God.

I know that is so because it is clearly the will of God that His chosen people give much thanks unto Him. In 1 Thess. 5:18, the Bible says, *“In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”*

So many of us want to grumble, groan and gripe instead of thanking God for what He has already given to us.

Rendering thanks to God is not to be an occasional act by us as God's people, but it is to be a way of life.

How do I know? The word "give" used in regard to thanks in 1 Thess.5:18 is in the Greek "*present tense*" in the New Testament. That suggests that thanksgiving is to be an ongoing and continual thing in the lives of us as God's dear people.

E. Why are we to give thanks unto the Lord? There are five reasons why we are to give thanks to the Lord.

- a. It Pleases the Lord;**
- b. It Proclaims Our Gratitude;**
- c. It Provokes Others;**
- d. It Produces Contentment; and,**
- e. It Portrays Christ.**

F. The first reason why we are to give thanks to the Lord is:

a. It Pleases the Lord (1 Thess.5:18, "*In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*").

The practice of giving thanks to the Lord is clearly His divine will. Rest assured that God is pleased when we do what He desires us to do in regard to any matter. It delights God when we appreciate Him enough to render our thanks unto Him.

G. The second reason why we are to give thanks to the Lord is:

- a. It Proclaims Our Gratitude.**

In Luke 17, the Lord Jesus cleansed ten lepers. Only one of them came back to thank the Lord for the miracle of their cleansing. One out of ten is 10%. I wonder in our churches if that percentage is really thankful to God.

H. The third reason why we are to give thanks to the Lord is:

- a. It Provokes Others.**

I do not mean to “provoke” in a bad sense. In Heb. 10:24, the Bible says we are to consider one another and to provoke one another to love and good works.

The word “provoke” in that verse has the idea of inciting or stirring up others to do what is right. When you and I are thankful it is contagious: it will catch on and others will be.

I. The forth reason why we are to give thanks to the Lord is:

a. It Produces Contentment.

As we are thankful to God for what He has given us, we become more and more contented with what is already ours through and from Him. Refuse to live restlessly.

J. The fifth reason why we are to give thanks to the Lord is:

a. It Portrays Christ.

As you read of the life of Christ, He was repeatedly thankful to His Father for His goodness.

Luke 10:21 says, *“In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth.”*

Jn. 11:41 says, *“Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.”* When we are thankful, we properly portray the love of Jesus to others around us.

J. Finally, I ask that we all:

a. Be Thankful for the Goodness of God

1 Chron. 16:34 says, *“O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endures forever.”*

b. Be Thankful for the Holiness of God

Psa. 30:4 reminds us, *“Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.”*

c. Be Thankful for the Judgments of God

Psalms 119:62 declares, *“At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments.”*

d. Be Thankful for the Saints of God

2 Thess. 2:13 states, *“But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God has from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.”*

e. Be Thankful for the Salvation of God

Jn. 3:36 tells us, *“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”*

K. Conclusion:

Be thankful from the depths your heart for the things we have considered.