



Stimulants For Thanksgiving

The Psalmist said in Psm. 147:7, "Sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving." As we walk through the Bible, it becomes evident that God intends a spirit of thanksgiving be the possession of all His people. Our singing should be accompanied with thanksgiving, since God is the source of everything good that has ever entered into our lives. It should not take a special national holiday to motivate and stimulate us to give thanks to the Lord. It should be an all year expression that should arise out of and from the redeemed life. All blessings flow from Him. Consider three things that will incite us and move us to be more thankful to God.

I. Looking Out Will Stimulate Us To Thanksgiving.

First, looking out at the **beautiful scenery** will arouse us (Psm.147:8). God has made a beautiful world for us to live in and enjoy. Only God could create the natural beauty that never ceases to amaze us. Secondly, looking out at **broken sinners** will arouse us (See Luke 15- the prodigal son). Seeing people whose lives sin has wrecked should not give you an air of superiority as a Christian, but rather a spirit of thankfulness that God has brought you out by His great grace. Thirdly, looking out at God's **bountiful supply** will arouse us (Phil.4:19). God has granted us far more than we have deserved.

II. Looking In Will Stimulate Us To Thanksgiving. When we look inward, what do we see? In the first place, there is a **new possession (2 Pet. 1:4)**. All born again people have a "divine nature." We would have no inclination to holiness of thought and life without it. In the second place, there is a **new person**. The Holy Spirit of God comes to take up abode in the heart of everyone saved by grace (Rom.8:9). In the last place, there is a **new peace** (Pslm. 119:165). The wicked do not know real, satisfying, lasting peace (Isa. 57:21), but saints do.

III. Looking Up Will Stimulate Us To Thanksgiving. When we look toward heaven through the eyes of the Bible we see several things. Number one, a **pleading Christ** (1 Jn. 2:1). As our Heavenly Lawyer, He represents us before the throne of God. Then, we also see a **powerful Christ** (Psm.147:15-19). It is obvious when God unleashes His omnipotent power that no one can successfully stand against Him. Last but not least, the **perception of Christ** will move us toward thanksgiving. In Acts 7:55, when Stephen was being stoned we see Jesus standing. He gave attention to the plight of His servant—godly Stephen. Never have an attitude of ingratitude.