

Glorifying God Through Thankfulness

Introduction

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, **do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

1. God is He who *“gives to all life, breath, and all things.”*

Acts 17:24-25 God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.

Acts 17:28 for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'

2. He is the Giver of *“every good gift and every perfect gift.”*

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

3. Obviously being thankful is right; we ought to be grateful to God.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

4. As with many other right things, however, being thankful is good not only because it is right and holds the promise of God's favor for us personally, it is good because of its influence on others.

The Sin of Unthankfulness

1. **Is there any more common sin than ingratitude? Sometimes the simplest duties seem the hardest to fulfill.**
Luke 17:11-19
2. **What if God were to take back every blessing for which we are not truly grateful?**
3. **But however common it is, ingratitude is a sin.**
4. **God has never looked lightly on the complainer.**
Numbers 21:4-6
 - A. **Sometimes our ingratitude is the result of not knowing (or remembering) what it is like to be without; there is a definite link between prosperity and unthankfulness.**

Deuteronomy 8:3 So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, **that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone**; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.

- B. **For example, the surest way to produce an ungrateful child is to give him everything he wants.**
5. **Nothing hurts quite like ingratitude. Especially does it hurt within a family.**

John 1:11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

6. **Not only is ingratitude itself a sin, it is at the root of most other sins; it is the first step on the road that leads one away from God.**
Romans 1:21
7. **We need, sometimes even literally, to “count our blessings.”**

The Need to Express Our Thankfulness

1. **Thanksgiving to God, the “fruit of our lips,” is a “sacrifice of praise to God.”**

Hebrews 13:15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

2. **Unexpressed gratitude is not much better than ingratitude, whether to God or to others — yet how often do we make excuses such as: we did not have time, it was an oversight, etc.**
3. **God has been gracious to each of us, but that grace will have been “in vain” if we do not properly receive it, appreciate it, and express our gratitude for it.**

1 Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

4. **As with love, gratitude must be expressed with deeds, as well as words.**

1 John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

5. **Ultimately, we show our gratitude to God by the help we give to others.**

Matthew 25:31-46

The Effect of Thankfulness

1. **Being thankful is one way all of us can let our lights shine — and what a powerful influence it can have on those around us.**
2. **As indicated, “expressing” our gratitude can mean:**
 - A. **Expressing our gratitude to God for His blessings.**
 - B. **Expressing our gratitude to others for their kindness.**
 - C. **Talking to others of our gratitude for God’s blessings.**

Mark 5:19 However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and **tell them what great things the Lord has done for you**, and how He has had compassion on you."

Psalms 105:1-2 Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; **Make known His deeds among the peoples!** Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works!

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, **that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;**

- 1) We can set a good example by saying thanks before meals in the presence of others.**

Acts 27:35 And when he had said these things, he took bread and **gave thanks to God in the presence of them all**; and when he had broken it he began to eat.

- 2) We can show how being thankful gives peace of mind, how gratitude for what is right diminishes anxiety about what is wrong.**

Philippians 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, **but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God**; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- 3) We can draw others toward the family of God by showing real thankfulness for the privilege of being God's children.**

1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

- 4) We can let it be known how much we appreciate our brethren in the Lord.**

Philippians 1:3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

- 5) We can draw others toward the Lord by showing real thankfulness for the spiritual blessings that we enjoy in Christ.**

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

Conclusion

- 1. Perhaps genuine thankfulness is such a great influence for good in our world because it is so rare and so unexpected.**
- 2. Like Daniel, we need to let our lights shine by being openly grateful to our God for His love and care for us.**

Daniel 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, **he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God,** as was his custom since early days.

- 3. When we do that — and also make a habit of expressing real gratitude to others for what they do — we will be amazed at the results.**
- 4. As we gather around our tables this coming Thanksgiving Day, may we all remember the tremendous love of God and thank Him first of all!**

Invitation

Place _____

Date _____

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Richie Thetford, November 2014 (Based on a lesson by Gary Henry and other material)