

BENEFITS OF GIVING THANKS TO GOD
11-10-19

I decided to write a new Scripture song for Thanksgiving.

The Chorus is taken from Philippians 4:4-6 and I Thessalonians 5:16-18

These are two of the greatest texts in the New Testament on giving thanks. It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving is just around the corner. Today we celebrate a meal together in what we call our annual Church Thanksgiving dinner. We do this so that we do not compete with your personal family Thanksgiving holiday. One of the sweetest holidays of the year has been Thanksgiving. The world is now trying to infringe on it by extending Black Friday into Thursday.

It is hard to corrupt the act of giving thanks to God. However the world is doing their best to do just that.

The Bible says that one of the characteristics of people in the end times will be their unthankful nature.

II Timothy 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

II Timothy 3:2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

Then Paul goes on to give even more notorious attributes of people in the end times.

II Timothy 3:3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

II Timothy 3:4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

II Timothy 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

This is a pretty sad list of wicked character traits of end time people. But the one that I want to highlight this morning is this one listed as **"UNTHANKFUL"** A characteristic of ungodly people is that of being unthankful.

This being the case I would have to say, that Godly, people should be a thankful people. This morning from the passages of Scripture that we chose for our Scripture song of the month, I want to share with you what I see as the benefits you'll receive when you are thankful to God. Basically all these benefits can be found in our Scripture texts found in Philippians 4 and I Thessalonians 5

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.

Philippians 4:5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.
Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

I Thessalonians 5:16 Rejoice evermore.

I Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

I Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Note First of all Philippians 4:4

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.

Note in this verse I see the following truth.

Consider the first benefit of giving thanks:

I. Giving Thanks Breeds Joy And Rejoicing.

A thankful person will be a joyous person:

I believe that the joy we experience in our Christian life goes hand and hand with being thankful to the Lord. One is a by product of the other.

Giving thanks and rejoicing go hand in hand.

Usually the reason a person rejoices is because they have received something.

What makes us rejoice? We rejoice because we received something a gift, a benefit. Something good has happened to you and you rejoice.

Christmas is a joyous time of the year because of the gift giving that takes place. Everyone loves receiving gifts!

Why do people complain? A person complains because they think they have been robbed, hurt, done wrong to defrauded, etc.

Now think about this, "What wrong has God done to us?" We are sinners and as sinners we deserve death and hell. Instead by God's grace we have been given salvation and eternal life if we believe in Him.

There is this one brother, whenever I ask him how he is doing he answers, "Better than I deserve." I like that because that is the absolute truth.

What do we deserve for our failures and sins?

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death;

But what do we get?

but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

When we realize we have been given a gift. We then have a reason to rejoice.

Look if you want a reason to give thanks think about what the Lord has promised you if you trust in Him. If you want to experience thanksgiving in your heart, give your heart to Jesus in salvation.

If you are a Christian you have something to be thankful for.
What you deserve and what you get are two different things.

No matter how hard things are in your life, if you are alive you are here by God's grace.

Jeremiah said to his people.

Lamentations 3:39 Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

See the irony of this statement. You are alive, why are you complaining?
As a sinner you deserve DEATH.

So a benefit of giving thanks is that it breeds joy.

The Bible says, there is joy in heaven over one sinner who repents. If you trust in the Lord this morning you not only will get joy but you will be the cause of joy in heaven!

I. Giving Thanks Breeds Joy & Rejoicing.

II. Giving Thanks Breeds Moderation & Contentment.

Giving Thanks Breeds Moderation which is a virtue of godliness.
Godliness, and contentment go hand in hand.

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

Philippians 4:5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Let your moderation be known to all men.
What is moderation?

Being thankful goes hand in hand with contentment. You are content so you are thankful. When you are not content you are tempted to get anxious and experience anxiety and discontent. A discontent person is a miserable person.

A discontent person is like Mr. Scrooge. Miserable, wanting more and more. It wasn't till Mr. Scrooge experienced his own funeral, in a vision, that suddenly he realized life is a gift. He realized he had a lot to be thankful for.

A person who is not content, will not be thankful because they are not looking at what they have but they are looking for what they do not have. They think they lack, so they become anxious, irritable, and miserable. Godliness, breeds contentment.

Moderation goes along with contentment.

Phil 4:6 says be careful for nothing. but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Why is it in America we have so much and yet are so unthankful. The reason why is that we are not content with what we have been given, and we want more and more. We are like spoiled brats who have all the toys in the world and yet we fight and bicker for more, more, more.

JAM 4:1 From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?

JAM 4:2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

JAM 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

III. Giving Thanks Proceeds from a life filled with Prayer.

Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

I Thessalonians 5:16 Rejoice evermore.

I Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

I Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Jesus said, Ask that your joy might be full.

John 16:24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

When you find yourself in a position that only God can resolve and only prayer can solve and when you get the answers you need how can you not be thankful to your God who answered your call for help.

I cannot tell you how many times in the ministry the Lord has given a token of His grace through answered prayer. When that happens we cannot but have joy.

IV. Giving Thanks Comes from Knowing Your In The Will of God.

I Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

When you pray, and have the confidence that God has answered your prayers in the past, and you trust Him in the future and the present, than you can rejoice and be thankful for all things because you know God hears you and God is answering your prayers according to His will.

There is no lack on God's part to answer your prayers.

God is able to do exceedingly above all that you ask or think.

All you need to do is trust Him and believe in Him.

Paul could find solace and joy even in his infirmities knowing that this was the will of God in his life. Therefore he was glad and rejoiced in his infirmities.

II Corinthians 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

We believe Rom. 8:28.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

The apostles, when they were beaten for witnessing of Christ, rejoiced that they were worthy to suffer for Him

Acts 5:40 And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

Acts 5:41 And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.

Only as a true believer can you be thankful in all things.

This takes faith. Paul could be thankful to God even when he was beaten and cast into prison at Philippi.

Acts 16:25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

Paul gave thanks when he was shipwrecked and in the cold.

Acts 27:35 And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat.

Acts 27:36 Then were they all of good cheer, and they also took some meat.

What do we have to fear as long as we are in the perfect will of God?

Conclusion:

We all have a lot to be thankful for. Can you say you are doing better than you deserve?

What are you thankful for this morning?

Giving Thanks Breeds Joy & Rejoicing.

Giving Thanks Breeds Moderation & Contentment.

Giving Thanks Proceeds From A Life Filled With Prayer.

Giving Thanks Comes From Knowing You're In The Will of God.