DISCOVERING THANKFULNESS

Appreciating God's Generosity

By Mel D Westbrook MBTh

Being Thankful For The Right Things

Rom 1:21 (NIV) For although they *knew* God, they neither *glorified* Him as God nor gave *thanks* to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. JESUS' RULE: If you know Him, you must give Him *glory* and be *thankful* for all the things He does for you.

Reasons For Being Thankful

Thankful For Creation

1 Pet 4:11 (NIV) If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God *may be praised* through Jesus Christ. To Him be the *glory* and the power for ever and ever. Amen. From the very beginning of your life, you have had a great amount of things to be thankful for. He gave you the universe, the earth, all the beauty of the earth and sky, all the resources that are in it and on it, your life, your body, and all the people that you are interacting with.

Thankful For Circumstances

Rom 8:28 (NIV) And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. Prior to you being born again, you didn't love God. Therefore, God wasn't working **all things** for your good. When God **in all things works for** your **good,** that is the right thing for you to be *thankful* for.

Thankful For God's Generosity

2 Cor 9:11 (NIV) You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. God hasn't just given you the blessings for this temporary life, He is getting you ready for all the glories and blessings of His eternal Kingdom. He has made you His child, a member of His family, and a citizen of His eternal Kingdom. That is a lot of generosity for you to be *thankful* for.

Thankful For The Creator

Rev 4:11 (NIV) You are *worthy*, our Lord and God, to receive *glory* and *honor* and power, for You created all things, and by Your *will* they were created and have their being. The creation is representative of the Creator. He is the artist, the sculptor, and the inventor of all these things. It was His idea to make all these things long before they were made. None of these things existed prior to Him inventing them and creating them. They are beautiful inventions that serve you well. He is worthy of all your thanksgiving and praise.

Thankful For Being Born Again

Col 2:6-7 (NIV) So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. This is where all the benefits of this life and your eternal life began. Prior to being born again, you were living without any of Jesus' salvation, justification, and sanctification benefits. And, you had no hope of inheriting eternal life, a glorified, heavenly body, and God's eternal Kingdom. This can take a lifetime and eternity to express your *thankfulness* for it all.

Thankful For Your Christian Family
Col 3:13-16 (NIV) Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be *thankful*. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with *gratitude* in your hearts to God.

It would be a lonely place, if you were the only Christian in the world. Christian fellowship, Christian support, Christian mentoring, and Christians worshipping together are all helping you grow and be loved in Jesus. Church, small groups, Christian books, Christian music, and Christian friends are all a part of God's family. Jesus gave you various types of ministers to help you grow and start winning at life. There is much for you to be *thankful* for by being made a part of the family of God.

Expressing Your Thankfulness

Expression Through Prayer
Col 4:2 (NIV) Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and *thankful*. One of the greatest ways for you to express your *thankfulness* is in prayer. Whether it is in a group who are all praising and worshipping God or it is you by yourself, prayer is a time for you to go over all the things you are *thankful* for. You may be very *thankful* in your heart; but, it is vital that you express your *thankfulness* with your mouth to Jesus.

Expression With Reverence And Awe
Heb 12:28-29 (NIV) Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be *thankful*, and so *worship* God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire." The more you go over all the wonderful things God has done to you, for you, in you, with you, and through you, the more you will be able to express your *thankfulness* with reverence and awe. This is a deep attitude of respect for how great and powerful God is.

Expression Of Thanks No Matter What The Circumstance
1 Th 5:18 (NIV) *Give thanks in all* circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. It is vital that you be *thankful* for the fact that **we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose (NIV Rom 8:28).** Since you know that *every* circumstance is *going* to work out good, it is important to start your expressions of *thanksgiving* from the beginning of the circumstance.

Ask To Not Forget
Make a mental or physical list of things Jesus leads you to spend time being *thankful* for. Ask Him to help you not miss one chance to be *thankful* for things that happen to you. *thankfulness* is the powerful motivator for building your intimate relationship with Jesus. Ask Him to help you **not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time** you **will reap a harvest if** you **do not give up (Gal 6:9).** *thanksgiving* is one of the greatest things you do.

Help Me Be Thankful For The Right Things

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My Reasons For Being T*hankful*

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I Am Asking To Not Forget

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