

Giving God Thanks

AGAPE LIFE CHURCH NOVEMBER 22, 2015

Oh my soul, bless God. From head to toe, I'll bless His holy name! Oh my soul, bless God, don't forget a single blessing! He forgives your sin - every one. He heals your diseases - every one. He redeems you from hell - saves your life! He crowns you with love and mercy - a paradise crown.

He wraps you in goodness - beauty eternal. He renews your youth - you're always young in His presence. Psalm 103:1-5 Message

Thanksgiving - When One Gives Back to God

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. Luke 17:15-16

Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples! 1 Chronicles 16:8

Luke 17:12-19 "But where are the nine?"

Because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Romans 1:21 Ungratefulness is a sign of moral decline.

"To be grateful is to recognize the Love of God in everything He has given us - and He has given us everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of His love, every moment of existence is a grace, for it brings with it immense graces from Him. Gratitude therefore takes nothing for granted, is never unresponsive, is constantly awakening to new wonder and to praise of the goodness of God. For the grateful person knows that God is good, not by hearsay but by experience. And that is what makes all the difference." ~Thomas Merton

Christians should **overflow** with thankfulness.

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. Col. 2:6-7

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. Colossians 3:17

Core Point: Releasing our thanksgiving to God should be a way of life for Christians. God expects us to live with a continual sense of gratitude and appreciation for all He means to us.

Rather than hearing thankfulness as a command, perhaps we can hear it as an invitation!

God wants nothing more than for us to be people of thanksgiving and gratitude. A thankful spirit is one of the key distinguishing marks of a Christian. Our gratitude sets us apart from the world; it makes us different.

Gratitude bestows reverence, **allowing us to encounter everyday epiphanies**, those transcendent moments of awe that change forever how we experience life and the world. ~ John Milton

For the Lord will comfort Zion, He will comfort all her waste places; He will make her wilderness like Eden, And her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in it, Thanksgiving and the voice of melody. Isaiah 51:3

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow. ~Melody Beattie

Releasing our thanksgiving to God should be a way of life for Christians. God expects us to live with a **continual sense of gratitude and appreciation for all He means to us.**

Be thankful **no matter what!** Psalm 107:22

I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving, And will call upon the name of the LORD. Psalm 116:17

Seeds of discouragement will not grow in the thankful heart.

Just an observation: it is impossible to be both grateful and depressed. Those with a grateful mindset tend to see the message in the mess. And even though life may knock them down, the grateful find reasons, if even small ones, to get up. ~Steve Maraboli

To the end that my glory may sing praise to You and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever. Psalm 30:12

When we learn to read the story of Jesus and see it as the story of the love of God, doing for us what we could not do for ourselves--that insight produces, again and again, a sense of astonished gratitude which is very near the heart of authentic Christian experience. ~N.T. Wright

I am thankful to God for: _____

Core Statement: I give thanks to God as a way of life! His blessings have overwhelmed me; I return and give Him the love and gratitude of my heart.