

Be Thankful!

By Daniel Deininger
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Intro:

This week is Thanksgiving, and we have much to be thankful for.

What are we thankful for?

What are YOU thankful for?

Physical things:

- ☐ Life
- ☐ Shelter
- ☐ Food
- ☐ Health
- ☐ Family

Spiritual things:

- ☐ God's love/sacrifice of Christ
- ☐ God's calling/His plan for mankind/Hope/Peace of Mind
- ☐ Truth as revealed in His Bible - ie His Word, the Bible
- ☐ Spiritual brothers & sisters
- ☐ The gift of God's Holy Spirit

Specific Purpose of this message:

Today I want to focus on the admonition in God's word that we should be THANKFUL... and then rehearse some things we should be thankful for

Need:

As this world drifts further from God - although more like being caught in a strong current, we must remain true to God's word and live our lives according to the light of God's TRUTH. It seems we are witnessing the darkness overtake the light, just like the night follows the setting of the sun. We need to be lights in a dark world... and that includes being examples of THANKFULNESS TO GOD.

From Steve Myers Home Office Update entitled "Five Kernels of Corn":

This Thanksgiving, we could recall the five kernels of corn. Each kernel can remind us of something precious in our spiritual walk. For example:

- The **first** kernel reminds of what is most important: **be thankful for God's love**—the unchanging, unconditional love that surrounds us and sustains us each day. "*We love Him because He first loved us*" (1 John 4:19).

- The **second** reminds us to **give thanks for God's grace—the forgiveness and mercy He offers freely upon repentance**, even when we fall short. *"But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble'"* (James 4:6).

1Co 1:4 NKJV - I thank my God always concerning you **for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus**,

- The **third** kernel encourages us **to appreciate God's provision—the daily bread He provides**, the blessings both big and small that sustain us through life. *"And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 4:19).
- The **fourth** urges us to be **grateful for God's guidance—the wisdom and direction He offers through His Word**. *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path"* (Psalm 119:105).
- The **fifth** kernel challenges us **to recognize God's peace—the peace He gives that guards our hearts and minds, even in the midst of life's struggles**. *"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"* (Philippians 4:6-7).

Col 3:15 KJV - And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and **be ye thankful**.

As we count these kernels, let us count our blessings. Let gratitude fill our minds and overflow in our hearts, for we serve a magnificent, all-powerful God who has showered us with countless blessings.

This Thanksgiving, let us commit to drawing ever nearer to Him, living according to His ways with renewed dedication and greater devotion. And let us remember to be thankful in all things, for He is with us—providing, guiding and filling us with His unshakable joy and strength.

—Steve Myers, Operation Manager, Ministerial and Member Services

Sign of the times...

2Ti 3:1 KJV - This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2Ti 3:2 KJV - For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, **unthankful**, unholy,

2Ti 3:3 KJV - Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, **despisers of those that are good**,

DD - despise that the Pilgrims gave thanks to God..

2Ti 3:4 KJV - Traitors, heady, highminded, **lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God**;

2Ti 3:5 KJV - Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

The Greek word unthankful is only used twice in the bible. Above and in Luke, below.

G884 ἀχάριστος acháristos, ach-ar'-is-tos; from [G1](#) (as a negative particle) and a presumed derivative of [G5483](#); thankless, i.e. ungrateful:—unthankful.

Luk 6:35 NKJV - "But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the **unthankful** and evil.

Luk 6:36 NKJV - "Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

Side thought: so even though many may be unthankful, we still need to show them kindness and mercy, not judging them more harshly than God does.

Rom 1:21 KJV - Because that, when they knew God, they glorified [him] not as God, **neither were thankful**; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

But we do need to be thankful!

Col 3:15 KJV - And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and **be ye thankful**.

Col 3:16 NKJV - Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Col 3:17 NKJV - 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**.

Psa 100:4 KJV - **Enter into his gates with thanksgiving**, [and] into his courts with praise: **be thankful unto him**, [and] bless his name.

So when coming before Him in prayer we should do it with "thanksgiving".

Psa 100:1 NLT - A psalm of thanksgiving. Shout with joy to the LORD, all the earth!

Psa 100:2 NLT - Worship the LORD with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy.

Psa 100:3 NLT - Acknowledge that the LORD is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Psa 100:4 NLT - Enter his gates with **thanksgiving**; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name.

Psa 100:5 NLT - For the LORD is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.

Some things David mentions we should be thankful for:

1. God is GOOD.
2. His UNfailing love for us
3. His faithfulness (toward us and our children and grandchildren)
4. His truth Psa 100:5 NKJV - For the LORD [is] good; His mercy [is] everlasting, And His **truth** [endures] to all generations.
5. His mercy

Psa 116:17 NKJV - I will offer to You the **sacrifice of thanksgiving**, And will call upon the name of the LORD.

1Ch 29:20 NKJV - Then David said to all the assembly, "Now bless the LORD your God." So all the assembly blessed the LORD God of their fathers, and bowed their heads and prostrated themselves before the LORD and the king.

Below we see the correlation between praise and thanksgiving:

Heb 13:15 NKJV - 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**.

DD - So even though we don't offer animal sacrifices, we should be offering sacrifices of thanks and praise.. Continually. And especially this week of Thanksgiving!

Other scriptures of showing things to be thankful for:

GOD'S CALLING & KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WAY:

Luk 10:21 NKJV - In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, "I **thank You, Father**, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from [the] wise and prudent and **revealed them to babes**. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.

Ephesians 1:15 KJV - Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,

Ephesians 1:16 KJV - Cease not to **give thanks for you**, making mention of you in my prayers;

Ephesians 1:17 KJV - That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

Ephesians 1:18 KJV - The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the **hope of his calling**, and what the **riches of the glory of his inheritance** in the saints,

Ephesians 1:19 KJV - And what [is] the **exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward** who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

THAT HE HEARS OUR PRAYERS:

Jhn 11:41 NKJV - Then they took away the stone [from the place] where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up [His] eyes and said, "Father, **I thank You that You have heard Me**.

FOR OUR FELLOW BROTHERS & SISTERS THROUGH CHRIST:

Rom 1:8 NKJV - First, **I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all**, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

Phl 1:3 NKJV - I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

1Th 2:13 NKJV - For this reason **we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us**, you welcomed [it] not [as] the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively **works in you** who believe.

2Th 1:3 NKJV - We are bound to **thank God always for you**, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other,

2Ti 1:3 NKJV - I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as [my] forefathers [did], as without ceasing **I remember you in my prayers** night and day,

Phm 1:4 NKJV - **I thank my God, making mention of you always** in my prayers,

Rom 7:25 NKJV - I **thank God**--through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, **with the mind I myself serve the law of God**, but with the flesh the law of sin.

BEING CALLED to BE A PART OF HIS WORK

1Ti 1:12 NKJV - And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, **because He counted me faithful, putting [me] into the ministry**,

2 Thessalonians 1:3 KJV - **We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet**, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

2 Thessalonians 1:11 KJV - Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of [this] calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of [his] goodness, and the work of faith with power:

2 Thessalonians 1:12 KJV - That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

We have much to be thankful for - not only this nation that we live in which has been blessed with bounty and freedoms, but also for the many spiritual blessing that God has given us including our calling to be part of His family, our spiritual family, and for knowing Him - the source of life and truth.

So let us be Thankful, always, but especially this week of Thanksgiving!