

The Christian's Life of Thankfulness

Introduction

1. **Thanking God on a daily basis is the way a Christian lives daily.**
2. **The heart of a Christian is constantly filled with the spirit of thanksgiving.**
 - A. **We know that we owe God gratitude constantly.**

Psalms 100:1-5 A Psalm of Thanksgiving. **Make a joyful shout to the LORD,** all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. **Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,** And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.

3. **Possessing the proper spirit of thanksgiving to God requires:**
 - A. **We receive Christ by obeying His Gospel which includes being baptized for the forgiveness of sins (Col 2:5-8).**
 - B. **We continue to "walk in Him" by abiding in His teaching.**
 - C. **We worship Him in spirit and in truth.**

Ephesians 5:19-21 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, **giving thanks always for all things to God the Father** in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

- D. **Our trust in Jesus grows as He guards our hearts.**
Philippians 4:4-7

Thanking God for All of Our Blessings

- **The spirit of true thanksgiving to God leads us to thank Him daily for all “spiritual blessings.”**

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,

- **Spiritual blessings are so precious because they involve our fellowship with God which extends throughout our earthly life and into eternity.**

1 Timothy 4:8 For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.

- **God does not force men to enter this spiritual relationship in Christ, but He invites all men to enter.**
 - **When men hear the teaching of the gospel, believe it, repent of their sins, and submit to water baptism, they are born of the water and spirit.**

John 3:5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

1. **Thank God for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.**
 - A. **Sin brings death (separation of man from God).**
 - B. **Christ died to "sanctify" the people**
Hebrews 13:10-15
 - C. **In preparing to eat the Lord's Supper as a memorial of Christ's death, we first thank God for the gift of His Son.**

Matthew 26:26-29 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

2. **Thank God for salvation from sin.**
 - A. **Every responsible person sins in thought, word, and deed.**
Romans 7:22-8:2
 - B. **Christ breaks our bondage to both the guilt and the practice of sin.**
3. **Thank God for revealing and confirming the truth of the gospel.**
 - A. **There's no message as inspiring as the gospel of Christ.**
1 Timothy 3:16
 - B. **The gospel was revealed and confirmed by fulfilled prophecies, miracles, and the resurrection of Christ.**
Hebrews 2:3-4

4. Thank God that He gives the truth to pure and honest hearts.**A. Humble hearts seek the truth of God's word.**

- 1) Proud and carnal hearts seek sensationalism, emotionalism, and intellectualism.**

B. Salvation is on God's terms, the terms of the gospel.**1 Corinthians 1:18-31****5. Thank God for those who obey the gospel.****A. Paul thanked God for people in wicked Rome who at one time had served sin – but no more!****Romans 6:17-18, 3-4****B. Paul thanked God for those who received the gospel as the truth, in spite of opposition and persecution.**

1 Thessalonians 2:13-14 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. For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans,

6. Thank God for faithful Christians.

A. Be thankful for the inspiration and encouragement God gives us through the examples of faithful Christians.

Romans 1:8-12

B. Paul was filled with joy to hear the good news of the constant faith, hope, and love of the saints at Thessalonica. Even telling others about this example of endurance.

1 Thessalonians 3:5-13

2 Thessalonians 1:3-4

7. Thank God for using us to spread the gospel.

A. God uses us to spread the sweet aroma of the gospel everywhere we go.

1) We are loved and appreciated by some, and hated by others for doing so.

2 Corinthians 2:14-17

B. There is no greater privilege than to preach “the unsearchable riches of Christ.”

Ephesians 3:8-10 To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,

8. **Thank God for our final victory over sin and death.**

A. In our lives, we will fight many battles before we lay our armor down.

1) We know that the outcome is already certain because Christ has defeated Satan and will give us victory.

Ephesians 6:10-13

1 Timothy 6:12 **Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life,** to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

2 Timothy 4:6-8 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. **Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day,** and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

B. Death is swallowed up in victory!

1 Corinthians 15:54-58

Conclusion

1. God's people here on earth continue to struggle against seemingly insurmountable odds.

A. But we know that heaven already rings with praises of Thanksgiving because the purposes of God will triumph!

B. Truth and right will prevail over all sin and error. If we remain faithful we WILL receive the crown of life.

Revelation 4:7-11

