

THANKFUL LIVING

1 Thessalonians 5:18

*Psa 78:17–18 - 17 Yet they still continued to sin against Him ...18
And in their heart they put God to the test by asking food
according to their desire.*

*Num 11:1 - Now the people became like those who complain of
adversity in the hearing of the LORD; and when the LORD heard
it, His anger was kindled...*

1 Cor 10:7–10 – 7 Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, "THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND STOOD UP TO PLAY." 8 Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day. 9 Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents. 10 Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

Josh 9:18 - ... the whole congregation grumbled against the leaders.

Psa 106:25 - ...(they) grumbled in their tents; they did not listen to the voice of the LORD.

1 Cor 10:6 - Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved...11 - Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction...

Exo 16:8 - ... the LORD hears your grumblings ... Your grumblings are not against us but against the LORD.

16 Rejoice always; 17 pray without ceasing; 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

I. THE BIBLICAL CALL TO THANKFULNESS

Psa 30:4 - Sing praise to the LORD, you His godly ones, and give thanks to His holy name.

Psa 97:12 - Be glad in the LORD, you righteous ones, and give thanks to His holy name.

Psa 107:1 - Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

Rom 1:8 - ...I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world.

1 Cor 1:4 - I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus...

Eph 1:16 – (I) do not cease giving thanks for you...

Phil 1:3 - I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,

Col 3:17 - Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

1 Thes 1:2 - We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers;

1 Thes 2:13 - ... we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God...

I. THE BIBLICAL CALL TO THANKFULNESS

II. THE INCLUSIVE SCOPE OF GRATITUDE

– *IN EVERYTHING give thanks*

2 Cor 4:8 - we are afflicted in every way...

2 Cor 7:5 - ... we were afflicted on every side...

Phil 4:12 - .. in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry...

Eph 5:20 - always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...

Heb 13:15 - Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

I. THE BIBLICAL CALL TO THANKFULNESS

II. THE INCLUSIVE SCOPE OF GRATITUDE

III. THE SINFUL HINDRANCES TO GRATITUDE

– **UNBELIEF**

– UNBELIEF

– PRIDE

– UNBELIEF

– PRIDE

– SELFISHNESS

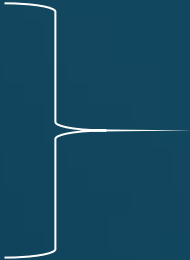
James 1:14–15 – 14...each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. 15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin;

Lust = ruling desire = idol

EXPECTATIONS (LUSTS/IDOLS)



REALITY



- Irritation
- Frustration
- Discontentment
- Discouragement
- Complaining
- Anger
- Bitterness
- Depression

SUMMARY OF INGRATITUDE:

– *IT IS DISOBEDIENCE*

– *IT IS UNBECOMING*

Rom 1:21 - ...even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks...

Eph 5:3–4 - 3 But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; 4 and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

- I. THE BIBLICAL CALL TO THANKFULNESS**
- II. THE INCLUSIVE SCOPE OF THANKFULNESS**
- III. THE SINFUL HINDRANCES TO THANKFULNESS**
- IV. THE DIVINE PROMPT TO THANKFULNESS**

IV. THE DIVINE PROMPT TO THANKFULNESS

2 Cor 4:15 - ...grace ... may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God.

*2 Cor 9:10–11 - 10 Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; 11 you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is **producing** thanksgiving to God.*

By God's grace we grow to recognize and embrace the doctrine of GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY.

Rom 8:28-29 - ...we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29...He predestined us to become conformed to the image of His son...

Psa 37:28 - For the LORD ... does not forsake His godly ones; they are preserved forever...

Psa 91:4 - He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark.

Psa 145:9 - The LORD is good to all, and His mercies are over all His works.

IV. THE DIVINE PROMPT TO THANKFULNESS

– BY GOD’S GRACE WE RECOGNIZE GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY

– BY GOD’S GRACE WE RECOGNIZE DAILY MERCIES

Lam 3:22–23 - 22 The LORD'S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. 23 They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.

– Our focus is turned more & more AWAY FROM OURSELVES
and ONTO GOD

– We admit that we DON'T DESERVE ANYTHING GOOD
happening in our lives.

EXPECTATIONS (LUSTS/IDOLS)



REALITY



Gratitude

- Irritation
- Frustration
- Discontentment
- Discouragement
- Complaining
- Anger
- Bitterness
- Depression

WHAT I REALLY DESERVE

JOEL BEEKE: *One need not be swimming in prosperity to have cause to give thanks. An ice cube is sufficient.*

We likewise should be full of gratitude that we enjoy the least blessings of life instead of the well-earned torments of hell.

1 Tim 6:17 - ...God...richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.

James 1:17 - Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights...

16 Rejoice always; 17 pray without ceasing; 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

D.E. HEIBERT: *Rejoicing, prayer, and thanksgiving form a trio that are closely related and must not be separated in practice.*

ROBERT THOMAS: *Rejoicing, praying, and giving thanks do not exhaust God's will but are vital parts of it.*

RICHARD PHILLIPS: *Knowing that these blessings are found in Christ Jesus warns us against directly seeking after joy, prayerfulness, or thanksgiving. We do not attain to joy by seeking to be happy, but by seeking Christ and by coming to God through the promises of His word. We do not attain to prayer by means of rigorous schedules, but by realizing all that God is and has for us in Christ. We will become thankful not by means of reminders that we place on our desks but by coming to know God better and reflecting on everything that He has secured for us eternally in His Son.*

Deut 29:29 - The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.

Mark 3:35 - For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother.

1 John 2:17 - The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

Eph 6:6 – (obey) as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

*Rom 12:2 - And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what **the will of God** is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Exo 20:3 - You shall have no other gods before me.

#1 - Pray with a Thankful Heart during Adversity

Phil 4:6–7 - 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Day by Day

*Help me then in ev'ry tribulation
So to trust your promises, O Lord,
That I lose not faith's sweet consolation
Offered me within Your holy Word.
Help me, Lord, when, toil and trouble meeting,
E'er to take, as from a father's hand,
One by one, the days, the moments fleeting,
Till I reach the promised land.*

Like a River Glorious

*Every joy or trial falleth from above,
Traced upon our dial by the Sun of Love;
We may trust Him fully, all for us to do;
They who trust Him wholly find Him wholly true*

#1 - Pray with a Thankful Heart during Adversity

#2 - Pray with a Thankful Heart during Prosperity

Deut 8:12–14 – 12...when you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built good houses and lived in them, 13 and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold multiply, and all that you have multiplies, 14 then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

Prov 30:8–9 - 8 ..., Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion, 9 That I not be full and deny You and say, "Who is the LORD?" Or that I not be in want and steal, and profane the name of my God.

BEEKE: *We pray spontaneously for those who are suffering, but let us also pray for the successful. Adversity is a bitter cup to drink; prosperity is an intoxicating wine.*

Col 2:6–7 - 6 Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.

