

FBC Thanksgiving Sunday October 11, 2026 YES, HE HAS!

The Lord Has Done Amazing Things for Us

Psalm 126:1–3

“When the Lord brought back his exiles to Jerusalem, it was like a dream! 2. We were filled with laughter, and we sang for joy. and the other nations said, “What amazing things the Lord has done for them.” 3. Yes, the Lord has done amazing things for us! What joy.”

THANKSGIVING QUESTIONS

Thanksgiving has a way of making us stop and take inventory. We look around the table, around our homes, around our families, and perhaps back over another year. **But Psalm 126 invites us to ask some deeper questions.**

It reminds us that biblical thanksgiving is not merely a matter of looking around at what we possess. **It’s looking back and remembering what God has done for us.**

WHO has been faithful to us? **WHAT** has He done for us? **WHEN** has He been there for us? **WHERE** have we seen His hand at work? **WHY** should we give Him thanks? And one more question: **HOW** should we respond to all that God has done?

Psalm 126 answers every one of those questions.

WHO? The LORD.

WHAT? He has done amazing things.

WHEN? In days of sorrow, waiting and restoration.

WHERE? In the real circumstances of His people’s lives.

WHY GIVE THANKS? Because they knew that what had happened could only be attributed to God.

HOW DID THEY RESPOND? They were filled with laughter and they sang of joy.

And right in the middle of it all stands a magnificent Thanksgiving declaration:
“The LORD has done amazing things for us, and we are filled with joy.”

That is more than a verse for ancient Israel. **That can be our testimony this Thanksgiving.**

Psalm 126 is a song of restoration. God’s people knew what it was to experience grief, loss, heartache and displacement. **Then the Lord acted on their behalf.**

Their circumstances changed so dramatically that it seemed almost too good to be true: *“We were like those who dreamed.”* **Laughter returned. Songs returned. Hope returned.**

At the centre of their joy was one great conviction: the Lord had done it.

Israel could say, “The Lord brought us home.”

How much more can those who belong to Jesus Christ say, “The Lord brought me home to God.” Through Jesus we have been forgiven, reconciled, adopted into God’s family, and given a living hope.

1. REMEMBER WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE

“When the Lord brought back his exiles to Jerusalem...” Psalm 126:1

Thanksgiving begins with remembering. The people deliberately looked backward.

They remembered where they had been, they remembered what they had endured, and how God had intervened. **Their present joy became richer because they remembered the road over which the Lord had brought them.**

It’s easy to concentrate on what we don’t have, what has gone wrong, what has changed, or what we still wish God would do.

The Psalmist invites us to turn around for a moment and look back.

Look at the doors God opened.

Remember the strength He supplied when you thought you had none left.

Remember the prayers He answered.

Remember the people He placed beside you.

Remember the quiet provisions that came at just the right time.

WHEN has God been faithful to you? Was it only when everything was going well? Or did you discover His faithfulness when nothing seemed to be going well?

WHERE have you seen His hand? Perhaps beside a hospital bed.

Perhaps at a graveside. Perhaps in your home during a difficult season.

Perhaps when you did not know what tomorrow would bring.

Perhaps in an answered prayer, or in the strength He gave when the answer was not what you wanted.

Some of us can look back over many years and say, **“I didn’t always understand what God was doing, but He was faithful.”**

There were valleys we did not choose, disappointments we could not explain, and burdens we would gladly have avoided.

Yet here we are. The Lord has carried us.

But for the Christian, remembering eventually takes us to the greatest thing God has ever done for us.

Romans 5:8 declares, *“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* Before we thank God for our homes, families, health, food or any other earthly blessing, **we thank Him for Jesus Christ.**

Israel could say, “The Lord brought us home.”

The believer can say, “The Lord brought me home to Himself.”

We were separated from God by sin and unable to save ourselves. Yet God acted in grace.

Jesus came. Jesus died. Jesus rose again.

Everyone who trusts in Him is forgiven and receives the promise of eternal life.

So ask yourself this Thanksgiving: What has the Lord done for me? **Don't answer too quickly.** Look back. **Remember.** Count the evidences of His grace. **And above them all, remember the cross.**

2. REJOICE IN WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE

“We were filled with laughter, and we sang for joy.” Psalm 126:2

Their gratitude could not remain hidden. Thanksgiving moved from the heart to the lips. **There is a difference between having blessings and being thankful for blessings.**

A person may have a full cupboard and still possess an empty, dissatisfied heart. Another may have comparatively little and yet live with a deep awareness of the goodness of God.

Thanksgiving is not ultimately determined by how much we have. **It's shaped by whether we recognize the One from whom every good gift comes and all blessings flow.**

Familiar blessings can become invisible blessings. The meal on the table becomes ordinary.

The friend who calls becomes expected. The freedom to worship becomes routine.

The Scriptures in our hands become familiar.

The church family around us can be taken for granted. **Thanksgiving calls us to see ordinary mercies again.**

WHAT has the Lord done for us?

We could begin naming blessings and probably never finish: daily bread, a place to call home, people who love us, friends who have stood beside us, a church family, the Word of God, the privilege of prayer, and countless mercies we hardly notice.

But eventually the Christian has to go deeper.

He gave us Jesus. He gave us a Saviour when we needed saving.

He gave us forgiveness when we were guilty. He gave us grace we could never earn.

He gave us hope beyond the grave. When Paul meditated on that he cried out;

“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!” 2 Cor. 9:15

Our deepest joy is not, “Look at everything I have.” **It is, “Look at everything God has done.”**

Circumstances change. Possessions come and go. Health can change. People we love may be taken from us. **But what God has accomplished for us in Christ remains.**

Our sins are forgiven. Christ is with us. The Holy Spirit dwells within us. God has promised never to leave us nor forsake us. Death does not have the final word.

Surely the redeemed of the Lord have reason to rejoice in awe and wonder!

That doesn't mean Christians pretend that life never hurts. Psalm 126 comes from people who knew deeply tears and heartache.

Biblical joy is not denial. It's confidence that sorrow is never the whole story when God is involved.

We can weep and still trust. We can hurt and still give thanks. We can walk through a valley and know that the Shepherd walks with us.

3. TELL WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE Psalm 126:2

“Then it was said among the nations, “The LORD has done amazing things for them.”

There is something remarkable here. Did you catch it? The people surrounding Israel noticed what God had done. Their restoration became a testimony.

Outsiders looked at them and concluded that something significant had happened.

Notice what Israel did not say. They did not say, “Look what we have accomplished.”

They did not say, “Haven't we been fortunate?”

They did not say, “Things finally worked themselves out.”

They said, *“THE LORD has done amazing things for us.”* **They knew WHO deserved the glory.**

That's so important at Thanksgiving. Christian gratitude is more than saying, “I'm thankful for...” It's saying, “I thank GOD for...”

Our gratitude has an address. It has an object. It rises to the One who has been faithful.

Can people see our gratitude?

The Christian life should contain something that points beyond ourselves to the goodness of God.

We live in a world where complaining comes easily. Social media posts are full of it. **Grumbling should not become the dominant language of people who are part of the family of God.**

A grateful believer can say, “I have known hard days, **but God has been faithful**. I have faced questions I could not answer, **but God has held me**.

I have experienced loss, **but Christ has not left me**. I’m not standing here because life has always been easy. **I’m standing here because the Lord has been good.”**

Our thanksgiving becomes a testimony:

Come and see what the Lord has done.

Come and hear about the Saviour who forgives sin.

Come and discover the grace that has sustained us.

Come and know the One who has given us hope.

4. YES, HE HAS!

“The LORD has done amazing things for us, and we are filled with joy.” Psalm 126:3

Verse 3 is the great response. The nations say, *“What amazing things the LORD has done for them.”*

God’s people answer, *“The LORD has done amazing things for us.”*

It moves from **THEM** to **US**. from observation to testimony, from something people have heard about, to something God’s people personally know.

That little word “US” makes all the difference.

Christianity is more than knowing that God has blessed other people. **Faith becomes personal.**

Not merely, “God is faithful,” **but, “He has been faithful to me.”**

Not merely, “Jesus saves,” but, **“Jesus is my Saviour.”**

Not merely, “Christ died for sinners,” but, **“He loved me and gave Himself for me.”**

Someone says, *“The Lord has done amazing things for them.”*

And the church answers: “YES, HE HAS!”

Has He forgiven our sins? **YES, HE HAS!**

Has He carried us through days we thought we could not face? **YES, HE HAS!**

Has He supplied our needs? **YES, HE HAS!**

Has He surrounded us with people who have loved and encouraged us?

YES, HE HAS!

Has He given us His Word, His presence, His promises and His church?

YES, HE HAS!

Has He prepared an eternal home for those who belong to Christ?

YES, HE HAS!

The Lord has done great things for us.

5. WHAT NOW? — LIVE LIKE GRATEFUL PEOPLE

There is one final question: If the Lord has done amazing things for us, **WHAT NOW?**

Do we simply enjoy Thanksgiving dinner and then return to life unchanged?

Biblical gratitude should produce something in us. If the Lord has done great things for us, then let us live like grateful people.

Let gratitude affect the way we worship.

Let gratitude affect the way we speak.

Let gratitude affect the way we give.

Let gratitude affect the way we treat one another.

Let gratitude replace some of our complaining.

Let gratitude make us quicker to praise and slower to criticize.

And let gratitude make us want others to know the God who has been so good to us.

Thanksgiving is not merely a day on the calendar. For the Christian, thanksgiving is meant to become a way of life.

So let's ask the questions again one final time.

WHO has been faithful? The Lord Has.

WHAT has He done? Amazing Things.

WHEN has He been faithful? Again And Again.

WHERE has He been faithful? Every Step of the Journey.

WHY should we give thanks? **Because Every Good Gift Ultimately Comes from Him.**

HOW should we respond? **With Grateful Hearts, Joyful Worship and Faithful Lives.**

BEGIN AT THE CROSS

But before you leave this Thanksgiving service thinking only about what's on your table, remember Who went to the cross. Remember what Jesus did there.

Remember why He did it. He did it for us.

If every other earthly blessing disappeared, the Christian could still stand at the foot of the cross and say, *"The LORD has done amazing things for us."*

Has He loved us? Yes, He Has!

Has He been faithful to us? Yes, He Has!

Has He provided for us? Yes, He Has!

Has He carried us? Yes, He Has!

Has He given His Son for us? Yes, He Has!

And if you have never personally trusted Jesus Christ, the greatest gift God offers you is not something that will sit on your Thanksgiving table.

He offers you His Son, forgiveness, reconciliation and eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Receive Him by faith, and you too can say from the heart, *"The LORD has done great things for me."*

So on this Thanksgiving Sunday, may this be more than a feel good verse we read. May it become the testimony of our hearts:

"The LORD has done amazing things for us, and we are filled with joy."

And when someone looks at the grace of God in our lives and says, *"The Lord has done great things for them,"* may our grateful response be as the redeemed of the Lord this Thanksgiving Sunday: **YES, HE HAS**

"The Lord Has Done Amazing Things for Us, And We Are Filled with Joy."

YES, HE HAS!

Slide 20: May the Lord continue to do amazing things for you.