

Thanksgiving 2024

Thankfulness in the life of a believer

Colossians 2:6-7 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷ rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

- In other words – Walk in Him. Walk in the spirit.
- Rooted in Him – What is our foundation for life – Foundation is what are you building your life on
- What is your foundation? The Gospel. Who God is. Who you are in Him.
- Built up in Him – Discipled to maturity
- Established in the faith as you have been taught – We then become established – solid – cannot be dissuaded or destroyed. Recognized as right
- This results in us abounding in thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is a sign of spiritual maturity.

Thanksgiving Model

1 Chronicles 16:8-15 Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples! ⁹ Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works! ¹⁰ Glory in His holy name; Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD! ¹¹ Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face evermore! ¹² Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth, ¹³ O seed of Israel His servant, You children of Jacob, His chosen ones! ¹⁴ He *is* the LORD our God; His judgments *are* in all the earth. ¹⁵ Remember His covenant forever, The word which He commanded, for a thousand generations,

- This is the Psalm that David wrote when the Ark of the Covenant was returned to Jerusalem and placed back in the Tabernacle.
- It is a mashup of Psalms 105 and 95

1 Chronicles 16:8-9 Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples! ⁹ Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works!

- Give thanks to the Lord. We are to give thanks.
 - **Psalm 100:4** Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.
 - **Colossians 4:2** Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;
- Make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works!
 - Our praise songs are songs of Thanksgiving. When we sing about what He has done. When we sing about what He will do. About who we are in Him.
 - Talk of his wondrous works – Actually talk about it.
 - Have conversations about how good God is.
 - We can remember to complain when things go wrong. Do we remember to give thanks when all is good?
 - When we make known His deeds among the people, it builds faith in others.
 - It is not bragging to talk about the goodness of God in your life.
 - **1 Corinthians 1:31** that, as it is written, "*He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.*"

1 Chronicles 16:10-11 Glory in His holy name; Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD! ¹¹ Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face evermore!

- Seek the Lord. Seek His face. Seek His glory.
- In other words, desire to be in His presence. Be intentional about being with God.
- Don't wait for it to just happen. We just talked about the path to His presence with the Tabernacle.
- **Psalm 16:11** You will show me the path of life; **In Your presence is fullness of joy**; At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.

- Being in His presence brings joy which should overflow into thankfulness.

1 Chronicles 16:12 Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth,

- Remember what God has done for you.
- Seeing what God has done in the past brings faith to hope for things for the future.
- Stones of remembrance.
 - **Joshua 4:9** Then Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests who bore the ark of the covenant stood; and they are there to this day.
- For myself:
 - When I have been broke, you laid riches in my lap
 - When I was alone and believed I would be alone, you placed Tina in my life
 - When I was believing there was nothing else to being a Christian than a to-do list, you sent me the Holy Spirit
 - When I have been sick, you have healed me
 - When I needed money to buy a house, you supernaturally provided
 - When I didn't know I needed a different house, you set that in place.
 - When I had no words to give to someone coming to me, you spoke to them
 - When the enemy tried to cause chaos in my life and take my joy, you defeated him and protected me.
 - When we felt you call us to start a church, you walked us through the unknown. And through scary decisions.
- Simply put – Tina and I began our marriage with almost no money. We saw many small miracles of provision. We saw a miraculous provision that lasted for years. We have seen a few large provision miracles. At the beginning, we were fearful and disheartened with

finances. Now we are not. When God called us to start this church, I had to give up my salary and had nothing to really fall back on.

- But because of what God had done in the past, we were able to move forward with faith and without fear. But what if we forgot all those miracles? Or what if during those times we never sought out God? Where would we be now?

1 Chronicles 16:14-15 He *is* the LORD our God; His judgments *are* in all the earth. ¹⁵ Remember His covenant forever, The word which He commanded, for a thousand generations,

- We should also thank God for the covenant He made with us.
- He is the Lord. He is our God. His promises are forever faithful. His covenant is enduring.
- His covenant – we are His children. We are made righteous. We belong to Him. Death is defeated and we will live with Him forever. We have a future and a hope. His Spirit is in us. He will guide, protect, and provide.

Thankfulness as a power

- **Philippians 4:6-7** 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 understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
 - Be anxious is not a command. Rather this verse shows that there is a better way to live than anxiety.
 - Anxiety is an emotion – not a sin.
 - Prayer and Supplication – Earnestly and humbly asking someone else (God) for something, generally help
 - With thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is not just a nicety we tack on to get favor with God. Thankfulness is actually a power.

- Thankfulness, when coupled with prayer for help from God is a force to overcome anxiety.

Who is your God?

- If I am facing a financial problem, my God is the God who will supply all my need according to His riches and glory. And I remember who He is and am thankful.
- If I am worried about an upcoming life situation, my God is the God of all wisdom and understanding. His plans are to prosper me and not to harm me, to give me a future and a hope. And I remember who He is and am thankful.
- If I get a diagnosis from a doctor, my God is the God who heals all my diseases. And I remember who He is and am thankful.
- When I feel that no one can understand what I am going through, my God is the God who sees. Who knows the number of hairs on my head and has redeemed me, making me His child and loves me. And I remember who He is and am thankful.
- When I feel distressed and uneasy, my God is the God of peace. And I remember who He is and am thankful.
- When I feel ashamed and unclean, unworthy, my God is the one who bore my shame. He became sin for me and gave me His righteousness. And I remember who He is and am thankful.

If you find He's not then you have an exciting opportunity to discover another deeper aspect of who God is.

Thanksgiving should be a framework that shapes a believers life.

- Are you able to think of things God has done that you can be grateful for?
- Start with your salvation
- If you are having troubles, spend more time seeking His presence.
- If you are not having difficulties, spend time seeking His presence.
- Make thankfulness a regular part of your day. A part of your daily worship.