Thanksgiving 2026

Thankfulness in the life of a believer

We have been talking about the blessings that you have already been given – Chosen, Adopted, Accepted, Redeemed, Forgiven, Placed in Christ, Given an Inheritance, and Sealed with the Holy Spirit.

Now listen to this passage:

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 those blessings. Receive them and accept them as reality – because they are.
- Rooted, built up, and established in Him – our lives are built on the foundation of the Gospel: who God is and who we are in Him. We are discipled to maturity and become solid, unable to be dissuaded or destroyed.
- Abounding in it with thanksgiving.
- **Eucharistia -** gratitude; grateful to God as an act of worship.
- **The mark of a mature believer is a life that overflows with thanksgiving.**

Often, it is easy to be thankful.

But there are times in life when we do not feel thankful. Maybe during a loss. When the enemy is attacking, when you feel insufficient, during various hard times.

I believe those are the times when being thankful is not just a good idea – it becomes necessary.

If only there were a model of how to be grateful in the Bible.

Thanksgiving Model

- Who loves a good mashup?

- 1 Chronicles 16:8-15 is a Psalm that David gave to be sung when the Ark of the Covenant was brought to Jerusalem and placed in the tent he had pitched for it (1 Chronicles 16:1).
- It is a mashup of Psalms 105, 96, and 106. Our passage, verses 8-15, comes from Psalm 105:1-8.

And it is a perfect model of how to be grateful!

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,

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;
    - What do we give thanks to the Lord for? Maybe start with all the blessings we just went through!!!
    - Look at all the good things in your life. Look at what God has done. Look at the sacrifice of Jesus. All the good that we enjoy comes from God.
    - We can remember to complain when things go wrong. Do we remember to give thanks when all is good?

- **1 Chronicles 16:8-9** 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.
    - For many people music helps us better express our feelings. Use it.
- Talk of his wondrous works – Actually talk about it.
    - We do not talk sufficiently about God.
    - Have conversations about how good God is.
    - 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*."
        - I often tell people of how far God has taken me. Or how much I have been blessed. This is not to show others up, but it overwhelms me so it comes out - and also, if God can change me, He can do anything!

I want everyone around me to know the amazing, wondrous deeds of God!!!

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.
- **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.
- Brother Lawrence in the book *The Practice of the Presence of God* - "That in order to form a habit of conversing with GOD continually, and

referring all we do to Him; we must at first apply to Him with some diligence: but that after a little care we should find His love inwardly excite us to it without any difficulty."

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 4:6-7** that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, 'What do these stones mean to you?' [7] Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever.
    - The stones were meant to be talked about – to make His deeds known to the next generation, for a thousand generations.
- These are some of my own stones of remembrance:
    - When I was believing there was nothing more to being a Christian than a to-do list, you sent me the Holy Spirit
    - When I could not afford to go on a mission trip – you changed the cost of the trip and provided miraculously everything I needed.
    - When I was alone and believed I would be alone, you placed Tina in my life
    - 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.
- Let me tell you about one of those stones – provision. 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,

- Remembering what He has done leads us to remember who He is. We 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.

Who is your God?

Remember those hard times I mentioned at the beginning – the loss, the attack of the enemy, feeling insufficient? This is how we give thanks in them. We remember who our God is.

- If I am facing a financial problem, my God is the God who will supply all my need according to His riches in 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. He is a loving Father who holds me in His hand. 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 anxious, 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 that in some area He isn't yet that God to you, then you have an exciting opportunity to discover another, deeper aspect of who God is.

Remember who the God we serve is. He is not weak. He is a conquering, victorious King over all the universe. He is a Father that lavishes good gifts on His children. He is our redeemer who paid for and bought us with His own blood. He has defeated death and made a place for us to live with Him for eternity.

That's My King video???

Thanksgiving should be a framework that shapes a believer's life – rooted and built up in Him, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

- Give thanks: Are you able to think of things God has done that you can be grateful for? Start with your salvation.
- Make thankfulness a regular part of your day. A part of your daily worship.
- Make it known: Talk about Him with others.
- Seek Him: If you are having troubles, spend more time seeking His presence.
- If you are not having difficulties, spend time seeking His presence.
- Remember what He has done.
- Remember the Covenant He made with you.

Response

- Take a moment right now and write down two or three of your own stones of remembrance – times when God came through for you.
- Now thank Him for each one.

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Oh, give thanks to the LORD!