

A Heart of Thanksgiving - I Thessalonians 5:12-18

Welcome back and here we go! Happy Thanksgiving! Tonight we talk about having a Heart of Thanksgiving, or in other words --- *a Grateful Heart!*

Websters- *Grateful: a state of being or feeling that is appreciative of benefits and kindness received.*

Another definition: *A mindset of appreciating life's blessings, focusing on what you have rather than what you lack.*

Psalm 107:21-22 ²¹ *Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men!* ²² *Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, And declare His works with rejoicing.*

1) We all have _____ to be _____ for.

If only we could begin each day positioning our minds towards God with gratitude. I think *gratitude* and *thanksgiving* are synonymous. If I am grateful, I will give thanks.

Often though we start with the negatives in life ----- forget 100 compliments, but remember the slight, or words said, or the harm caused, or the pain felt ---- instead of remembering a kindness!

Or, we concentrate on what we do not have, what we think we need, what our flesh desires, good or bad, and become discontent.

All of us have what I think of as a *Spiritual Current* running through us. If it trends negative, then spirits of fear, anger, frustration, jealousies, negativity... will be evident and in the forefront. We will tend to have a prevailing negative disposition. We all know people with negative dispositions. In fact.... that may be you!

Most negative people know they are, because others will tell them often, "*Stop being negative!*"

Psalm 107:28-32 *Then they cry out to the Lord in their trouble, And He brings them out of their distresses.* ²⁹ *He calms the storm, So that its waves are still.* ³⁰ *Then they are glad because they are quiet; So He guides them to their desired haven.* ³¹ *Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men!* ³² *Let them exalt Him also in the assembly of the people, And praise Him in the company of the elders.*

2) Life _____ can be _____.

But God is always there for us to deliver us from our trials.

Philippians 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 understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

So again, we should start each day by using *Faith-Rest* and saying "*Lord, you have allowed me these problems. Thank you. Please show me the route to peace. I trust you.*"

Then focus on what is right in your life.

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

3) _____ on what is _____.

Then we are able to do this.

Psalms 100:4-5 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. ⁵ For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.

Ephesians 2:4-7 ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

4) We are _____ in the Heavenly Realms.

- Start by REPENTING, CONFESSING SIN, especially a *negative mental attitude*.
- Then expressly ask for entrance into his courts, “*enter the gates*”.
- Then offer REQUESTS, PRAYERS, SUPPLICATIONS with THANKSGIVING.

5) My problem is: _____.

Now that you are in HIS COURTS:

- “Thank You for my problems.”
- “Thank You for Your presence.”
- “Thank You for Your Spirit.”
- “Thank You for Your healing.”
- “Thank You for Your direction.”
- “Thanks You for my peace.”

It is from here we can move into the production stage of our ministry. Your life is a ministry (by the way).

Question: How many of you want to do the “WILL of God”?

1 Thessalonians 5:12-18 ¹⁵ See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all. ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Give thanks in everything. Ask yourself today – “am I content or am I complaining?”

Your mouth and heart are the witness --- either for or against you.

Song “Give Thanks”.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 ²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify^[a] you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁴ He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

Let’s pray.

Face of Grace
5407 Palm Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95841
Mailing: PO Box 3975, Citrus Heights, CA 95611
FaceOfGrace27@gmail.com
<https://faceofgrace.biz>
916-993-8213