

The Glory of Giving Thanks to the Lord

I. Our whole Christian life is about responding in thanksgiving to God for His “indescribable gift” (II Corinthians 9:10-15).

- A. The Corinthians gave generously as an expression of giving thanks to the Lord for His “indescribable gift” (vs. 15).
- B. Thanksgiving is our response to God’s generous heart. “We love, because He first loved us” (I John 4:19).
- C. The opposite of thanksgiving is a spirit of entitlement. It causes the heart to grow cold and the Holy Spirit to disappear.
- D. One of the first things we teach our kids is for them to say, “Thank you.” It is not only polite; it is a very relational issue.

II. There is a connection between giving thanks and presence of God (I Chronicles 16:1-14).

- A. New Testament Christians are called “a royal priesthood” made to “declare” the praises of God (I Peter 2:9, 10).
- B. In the presence of God, we “thank and praise the Lord” (I Chronicles 16:4); we “tell of all his wonderful acts” (I Chronicles 16:9); and we “remember the wonders He has done, His miracles, and the judgments He pronounced” (I Chronicles 16:12).
- C. Thanksgiving embraces the presence of God.
 - 1. “Enter his gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise” (Psalm 100:4).
 - 2. “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit” (I Thessalonians 5:16-19).
- D. Everything hinges on Immanuel, “God with us” (Matthew 1:23).
 - 1. “Do not leave Jerusalem but wait for the gift...” (Acts 1:4-8).
 - 2. “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed” (Acts 19:1-6)?
- E. Moses cried out for God’s presence (Exodus 33:14-17), but it was the people’s ingratitude and memory loss that caused the presence of God to lift for future success.
- F. The ingratitude of Hezekiah (II Chronicles 32:24-26)

III. Thanksgiving is directly connected to breakthrough in our lives. “How you remember your last miracle is how you will face your next problem” (Bill Johnson) (Psalm 78:18-22).

- A. The currency of the Kingdom is “faith-filled response” based on gratitude for the past.
- B. It was a profound sense of gratitude for Peter and John’s miracle that caused the church to cry out for boldness - more breakthrough (Acts 4:27-31).
- C. Notice the connection of thanksgiving and breakthrough in Psalm 50:7-15, 23.
- D. Thanksgiving makes way for answers to our prayers—the very shalom of God (Philippians 4:4-9).

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April 2, 2023*