

“Thank You, Lord”

(The Attitude of Gratitude)

Thank You, Lord

- **The Bible teaches by direct command to be grateful.**
 - Eph. 5:20 - “Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”
 - Col. 2:7 - “Rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”

Thank You, Lord

- It is God's will that we be thankful.
 - 1Thes. 5:18 - "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."
 - Matt. 7:21 - "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."

Thank You, Lord

- **Jesus was thankful.**
 - Matt. 11:25 - “At that time Jesus answered and said, ‘I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes.’”
- **David was thankful.**
 - 1Chron. 16:7-36 - “On that day David first delivered this psalm into the hand of Asaph and his brethren, to thank the LORD.”

Thank You, Lord

- Daniel was thankful.
 - Dan. 6:10 - “Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.”
- Paul was thankful.
 - Acts 27:35 - “And when he had said these things, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all; and when he had broken it he began to eat.”

Thank You, Lord

- **Angels are thankful.**
 - **Rev. 7:11-12 - “All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: ‘Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen.’”**

Never Forget

- **Forgetfulness is the enemy of gratitude.**
 - Psalm 103:2 - “Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits.”
 - Gen. 40:23 - “Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.”
 - Luke 17:17-18 - “So Jesus answered and said, Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?”

Never Forget

- **“Blessed are those who give without remembering and those who receive without forgetting.”**
- **Those who forget to be thankful are fools because they believe that “I forgot” excuses them.**
- **They are sinners because they forget to reciprocate when the circumstances are reversed.**

Do Not Obsess About Your Troubles

- We need to count our blessings, not our bruises.
- We must firmly believe.
 - Rom. 8:28 - “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”

Think Of How Well Off You Are Relative To So Many Others

- How would we handle it if we were reduced to the same level of many people in the world?
- Just over one billion people in this world are classified at the severe poverty level, and they live on about \$1.90 per day. (World Bank, 8/23/21)

Count The Blessings You Have, Rather Than Concentrating On What Is Missing

- 1Tim. 6:8 - “And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.”
- Heb. 13:5 - “Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you.”
- Eph. 1:3 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”

Express Gratitude Verbally

- Psalm 107:1-2 - “Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy.”
- Psalm 116:12 - “What shall I render to the LORD For all His benefits toward me?”

Express Gratitude Verbally

- We must express our gratitude by our lives as well as by our lips.
- Thanks-saying is not necessarily the same as thanks-living.
- Gratitude is less about what you say than what you do.

Do Not Take Common Blessings For Granted

- We become thankless because we drift into thoughtless.
 - Think and thank come from the same root word.
 - Old English: þancian - “To give thanks, thought, gratitude; originally ‘thought,’ but by 1000 AD - ‘good thoughts, gratitude’; from same root word as think.” (Oxford English Dictionary)

Avoid Focusing On The Luxuries Of Life

- Luke 12:15 - “And He said to them, ‘Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.’”
- We must be thankful for the simple necessities.
- We need to be emphatically thankful for spiritual things.

Stop Murmuring And Complaining

- Num. 14:2 - “And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, ‘If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!’”
- Num. 11:4-6 - “Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: ‘Who will give us meat to eat? 5We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!’”

Stop Murmuring And Complaining

- 1Cor. 10:10 - “Nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.”
- Eph. 5:20 - “Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- Phil. 2:14 - “Do all things without complaining and disputing.”

Remember That We Are The Recipients, Not The Giver

- James 1:17 - “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”
- 1Cor. 15:10 - “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”
- The ungrateful sin because they believe that their hardships entitle them to blessings from God or to help from others.

Thank You, Lord

- “An ungrateful man is like a hog under a tree eating acorns, but never looking up to see where they come from.” (Timothy Dexter)
- “He is ungrateful who denies that he has received a kindness which has been bestowed upon him; he is ungrateful who conceals it; he is ungrateful who makes no return for it; most ungrateful of all is he who forgets it.” (Seneca)

Thank You, Lord

**“That man may last, but never lives,
Who much receives, but nothing gives;
Whom none can love, whom none can thank,
Creation's blot, creation's blank.”**