




How to Have a Happy Family

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**Gratitude**

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1Th 5:18

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in everything give thanks; for this is God's will  
for you in Christ Jesus.





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# An Attitude of Gratitude

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- ✦ Easy to take things for granted
- ✦ An attitude of gratitude is the key to happy families.
- ✦ Ingratitude is a powerfully destructive force
  - ◆ Herod
  - ◆ Israelites



## Hos 2:8-9

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"For she does not know that it was I who gave her the grain, the new wine and the oil, And lavished on her silver and gold, Which they used for Baal. (9) "Therefore, I will take back My grain at harvest time And My new wine in its season. I will also take away My wool and My flax Given to cover her nakedness.

# Here Are Three Amazing Things

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- ✦ The great sin of the people
- ✦ The great patience of God
- ✦ The ingratitude of the people
- ✦ Which is most amazing?



# What About Us?

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- ✦ We have even greater evidences of God's blessings and love.
- ✦ 2 Cor 9:15—*Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.*
- ✦ But some turn against God in difficult times.
- ✦ We can complain without blaming God.
- ✦ Job did.
- ✦ Contrast of Moses and the Israelites in Num 11.
- ✦ This issue of ingratitude exists in our families!!

# We Live in an Ungrateful Age.

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2Ti 3:1-4 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. (2) For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, (3) unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, (4) treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,



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Rom 1:21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

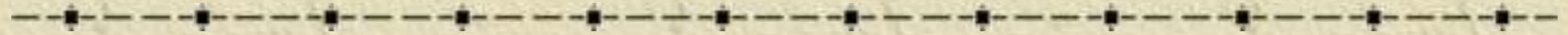


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# Why Ingratitude?



✦ Pride



## Prov 30:7-9

Two things I asked of You, Do not refuse me before I die: (8) Keep deception and lies far from me, Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion, (9) That I not be full and deny You and say, "Who is the LORD?" Or that I not be in want and steal, And profane the name of my God.

# Why Ingratitude?

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✦ Pride—Prov 30:7-9

✦ Self-dependency— Phil 4:6-7



## Phil 4:6-7

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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 comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

# Why Ingratitude?

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- ✦ Pride—Prov 30:7-9
- ✦ Self-dependency— Phil 4:6-7
- ✦ Lust and greed— I Tim 6:6



# 1 Tim 6:6

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1Ti 6:6 But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.

# Why Ingratitude?

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- ✦ Pride—Prov 30:7-9
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- ✦ Endless capacity to take things for granted.



# Why Ingratitude?

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- ✦ Pride—Prov 30:7-9
- ✦ Self-dependency— Phil 4:6-7
- ✦ Lust and greed— I Tim 6:6
- ✦ Endless capacity to take things for granted.
- ✦ Not necessarily because of the difficulty of our lives.

## Psa 13:1-6

How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever?  
How long will You hide Your face from me? (2)  
How long shall I take counsel in my soul, Having  
sorrow in my heart all the day? How long will my  
enemy be exalted over me? (3) Consider and  
answer me, O LORD my God; Enlighten my eyes, or  
I will sleep the sleep of death, (4) And my enemy  
will say, "I have overcome him," And my  
adversaries will rejoice when I am shaken. (5) But  
I have trusted in Your lovingkindness; My heart  
shall rejoice in Your salvation. (6) I will sing to the  
LORD, Because He has dealt bountifully with me.



# The Blessings of Gratitude

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- ✦ It is the basis of happiness.
- ✦ Unhappy people are ungrateful people
- ✦ It transforms us into more positive and useful people.
- ✦ It improves our relationships.

# Gratitude in Marriage and Family

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- ✦ Marriage—Happiness only begins when we recognize that we can only change ourselves.
- ✦ Family—Everyone longs to be noticed and appreciated.
- ✦ Appreciation attracts appreciation





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*“The quality of mercy is not strained; It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven Upon the place beneath. It is twice blessed-It blesseth him that gives and him that takes.” Shakespeare*



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*“A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all other virtues.” Cicero*





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*2Co 9:10-12 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. (11) You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. (12) For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.*

# The Ultimate Reason for an Attitude of Gratitude is God

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✦ Thanksgiving is all that we have to offer to  
God—Psa 50:9-14



## Psa 50:9-14

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"I shall take no young bull out of your house Nor  
male goats out of your folds. (10) "For every beast  
of the forest is Mine, The cattle on a thousand hills.  
(11) "I know every bird of the mountains, And  
everything that moves in the field is Mine. (12) "If I  
were hungry I would not tell you, For the world is  
Mine, and all it contains. (13) "Shall I eat the flesh  
of bulls Or drink the blood of male goats? (14)  
"Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving And pay  
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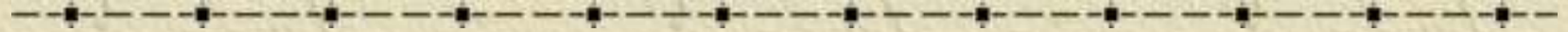
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- ✦ Thanksgiving is all that we have to offer to God—Psa 50:9-14
- ✦ Many of God's greatest blessings are so regular and constant that we take them for granted.
- ✦ God's greatest blessings are ours because of the covenant relationship with Jesus Christ.



2 Cor 9:15



Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!



# Gratitude in All Things

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*I THESS. 5:18 NKJV----"In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*