

20241229 Let give thanks to the Lord – Ps David

We are coming to the end of the year again. It is time to count your blessings and give glory to God. Of course, this should be done throughout the year but I just want to give this opportunity for us to give thanks to the Lord. So, my sermon will be short and there will be various people giving testimony today.

It is important to give thanks, and we should give thanks because....

1. God wants it.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

It is the Lord’s will, the Lord wants to be thanked for His providence and sovereignty. Jesus wants to be thanked for taking our sin and making us clean. The Spirit wants to be thanked for His guidance and comfort. God has emotions, and He desires praise. He is worthy and He deserves it.

On the other end of the spectrum, God is angered by our grievances and complaints in the same way that He was angered with the Israelites when they complained against God for leading them out of Egypt into wilderness.

Numbers 11:1-2 Now the people complained about their hardships in the hearing of the Lord, and when he heard them his anger was aroused. Then fire from the Lord burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp. ²When the people cried out to Moses, he prayed to the Lord and the fire died down.

When we complain, we are saying he is unfaithful, he is not able, he is not love, which is totally opposite of who He is. So, let us give thanks for what he has done or what he is doing in our lives even it doesn’t seem to be a good things at the time. God has a good purpose and a good plan for all of this.

2. Everything is from God.

1 Corinthians 1:4-5 I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge—

There is not a single thing we own, nor a single thing about who we are that has not been given to us. From the tiniest detail of our appearance to the house we live in, from each and every breath to our salvation. Even in our greatest offerings and sacrifices, we can’t outgive God.

We should give thanks to God for his providence, sovereignty, guidance, comfort, and for saving us from shame and sorrows. Giving thanks can strengthen faith and build a relationship with God.

3. A lack of thanksgiving keeps us from moving forward.

Exodus 16:12 “I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.’”

After God led His people out of Egypt toward the Promised Land, they spent their time in the desert complaining. As a result, their eyes were taken off the big picture, and they spent much more time in the desert than they should have. The Promised Land was waiting, but their lack of thankfulness kept them from taking their next step into it.

Entitlement holds us back, gratitude propels us forward into the life God designed for us. Entitlement causes lay back or careless attitude, but gratitude moves our heart and want to respond to God's love and calling.

Also, lack of thankful heart will cause people to focus on self, pride, and dissatisfaction, which could also slow us down or miss the promise God has for us. Pride make us think our ways are better, dissatisfaction make us not want to follow God's way because we don't like his way so we slowdown or turn away from his will.

4. Giving thanks changes our perspective.

When we are thankful in our prayers, our focus turns away from ourselves and to the goodness of God and all He has done for us. Our hearts are stirred with joy. Our joy begins to overflow and the result is fruit — growing to be more like Jesus. Fruit sprouting all over the place!

Feeling and expressing appreciation is good for us.

James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Like any wise father, God wants us to learn to be thankful for all the gifts He has given us. It is in our best interest to be reminded that everything we have is a gift from Him. Without gratitude, we become arrogant and self-centred. We begin to believe that we have achieved everything on our own. Thankfulness change our focus of self to the Giver, it keeps our hearts in right relationship to the Giver of all good gifts. The art of thanksgiving is consistent, steadfast, genuine, year-round thankfulness in all things, for He is good.

Some of the reasons why we should give thanks at the end of the year, including:

- **Feel happier:** According to Harvard Health, gratitude is associated with greater happiness.
- **Improve outlook:** Practicing gratitude can brighten your outlook, boost your mood, and help you feel more positive.
- **Train your brain:** Focusing on what you're thankful for can train your brain to spot the good in life, which can reduce stress and make challenges more manageable.
- **Express appreciation:** You can express appreciation for the things in life that are meaningful or valuable to you. You can do this by
 - Writing a thank-you letter or email
 - Delivering and reading the letter in person
 - Making a habit of sending at least one gratitude letter a month

Psalm 88:11 Is your love declared in the grave, your faithfulness in Destruction^[a]?

Why wait at our death bed then tell God's goodness? Why wait until it is too late? When opportunity has gone?

So let us giving thanks for all He has done for us, through our mouth and through our life.

Let us give thanks to the Lord for the year, let us focus on his goodness so that we may walk in the direction he has for us and enter to the goodness he has planned for us. May God be glorified through our thanksgiving because he deserve all our praises.