

# **A Heart of Thankfulness**

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## What the Bible Says about Thankfulness?

A. Jesus set the example for us

There are three specific times recorded in the Gospels that Jesus gave thanks. Perhaps there are more, but these are the ones I have found.

1. The first was when He raised Lazarus from the dead

In Jon 11:41, Jesus prayed and said, *“Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.”* This He said as He was about to raise Lazarus from the dead. He knew that God had heard His prayer. He knew what God was about to do and that He was going to show that Jesus had power over death and Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life.

2. The second time Jesus gave thanks was when He upbraided the cities where He had done mighty works and the people did not believe on Him. He was thankful that there would be some who did believe on Him and the Father would reveal to them His word and way.

In Matthew 11:25, the Bible says, *“At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.”* God would reveal the hidden treasures of His knowledge to those who followed Jesus. These things were not for those who were wise and prudent among men but for those who were humble before God. Jesus was thankful for the way His Father revealed things to those who had a heart to receive.

3. The third time Jesus gave thanks was at the last supper

Jesus gave thanks twice at the last supper. First He gave thanks for the bread which represented His body that He would give for His disciples and for all who would believe on Him after His disciples. Jesus knew that His gift, His sacrifice, would be enough and that it would not be in vain; and Jesus was thankful. Luke 22:19,20 says, *“<sup>19</sup>And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. <sup>20</sup>Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.”*

Jesus gave thanks for the cup because it represented His blood which He shed for the remission of sins. *“<sup>27</sup>And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; <sup>28</sup>For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”* (Matthew 26:27,28)

Jesus came to do the will of His Father, and He was very thankful that the Father’s will had been done through Him.

## The Heavenly Hosts Give Thanks to God

Even the angles and other created beings in Heaven give thanks to God and will give thanks to Him in the future. Should I not give thanks also?

*“<sup>8</sup>And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. <sup>9</sup>And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, <sup>10</sup>The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, <sup>11</sup>Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”* (Revelation 4:8-11) Thanksgiving, in this case, was accompanied by worship and adoration and praises to the Lord God Almighty.

*“<sup>11</sup>And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, <sup>12</sup>Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.”* (Revelation 7:11,12)

*“<sup>16</sup>And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, <sup>17</sup>Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.”* (Revelation 11:16,17)

## Thanksgiving is Commanded

Thanksgiving is commanded and it pleases God.

God commands us to offer our thanksgiving to Him. As always, there is a reward or blessing promised for obedience to this command. If I am faithful to offer to God my sacrifices of thanksgiving, He will hear when I call upon Him in the day of trouble and He will deliver me, and I will glorify Him. *“<sup>14</sup>Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High: <sup>15</sup>And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.”* (Psalm 50:14,15)

Thanksgiving pleases God more than offerings and sacrifices. *“<sup>30</sup>I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving. <sup>31</sup>This also shall please the LORD better than an ox or bullock that hath horns and hoofs.”* (Psalm 69:30,31)

Thanksgiving to God results in declaring God's works to others with rejoicing. *“<sup>21</sup>Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! <sup>22</sup>And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.”* (Psalm 107:21,22)

Thanksgiving accompanied by music and singing.

Give thanks for all things.

Give thanks to God in the name of Jesus Christ.

*“<sup>19</sup>Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; <sup>20</sup>Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (Ephesians 5:19,20)

*"<sup>12</sup>Giving thanks unto the Father,"*

Why?

He *"hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:*

*<sup>13</sup>Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:*

*<sup>14</sup>In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins."* (Colossians 1:12 – 14)

God commands us to give thanks. Sometimes the command is general, such as "giving thanks always for all things." Sometimes the command includes wonderful things to be thankful for – God's goodness, His wonderful works, salvation, inheritance with the saints through Christ Jesus, Deliverance from darkness into light, removal from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God's dear Son, redemption through Jesus' blood, and the forgiveness of sins. What wonderful things to be thankful for. Am I thankful for them?

### **Thanksgiving is the Result of Salvation and Part of Revival**

Salvation:

*"<sup>12</sup>Giving thanks unto the Father,"*

Why?

He *"hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:*

*<sup>13</sup>Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:*

*<sup>14</sup>In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins."* (Colossians 1:12 – 14)

Revival:

*"Return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. 2Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips."* (Hosea 14:1,2)

*"The calves of our lips" refers to sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving because praise and thanksgiving pleases God more than offerings and sacrifices. "I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving. This also shall please the LORD better than an ox or bullock that hath horns and hoofs."*(Psalm 69:30,31)

Hebrews 13:15 explains further, *"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."*

## Thanksgiving Should be Offered to God

Unto God

*"Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High."* (Psalm 50:14)

Unto Christ, God the Son

*"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry."* (I Timothy 1:12)

Thanksgiving is Offered to God through Christ (or by Christ)

*"First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world."* (Romans 1:8)

Paul points out something to be thankful for – a good testimony. When other people recognize that our faith is in God and in His Son, Jesus Christ, that is something to be thankful for.

*"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."*(Colossians 3:17) Anything that I do in word or deed should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus. It should glorify God and bring honor to His name and His Son's name. Can I thank God through Jesus Christ for what I am doing or going to do? If not, I probably should not be doing it.

*"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."*(Hebrews 13:15)

I should have a thankful spirit, offering praise to God continually. That is the fruit that should come out of my lips. Psalm 34:1 says, *"I will bless the LORD **at all times**: his praise shall **continually** be in my mouth."*

Thanksgiving is Offered to God in the Name of Jesus Christ

*"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."* (Ephesians 5:20)

Thanksgiving is Offered on Behalf of the Brethren

*"<sup>11</sup>Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf."*(II Corinthians 1:11)

As brethren pray for those who minister in the word, God prospers that ministry and blesses those ministering, and this results in many being able to give thanks.

*"He that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) <sup>11</sup>Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. <sup>12</sup>For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God; <sup>13</sup>Whiles by the experiment of this ministrations they glorify God for your professed subjection into the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men; <sup>14</sup>And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you. <sup>15</sup>Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."*(II Corinthians 9:10-15)

God supplies all my needs and gives fruit for my righteousness. He enriches me in everything. I should give God thanks for all this goodness. To show my thanksgiving, I can give of the abundance He has supplied to me. This will help those saints in need and cause many more to give thanksgiving to God. They will be able, through my ministering to them in this way, glorify God for my subjection to the gospel of Christ and my liberal giving. The giving not only benefits them but also everyone as it is used for the furtherance of the gospel. God has showed great grace on me, and this ministering to the saints will also cause them to be in prayer for me. God gave the unspeakable gift – His Son Jesus, and salvation through His Son. Much thanks should be given to God for this. It is the ultimate reason why thanks can be given to God for all the other things mentioned above.

### **Thanksgiving in Worship**

In Private Worship:

Daniel gave thanks in his daily worship. He gave thanks even when he knew he was facing death for his faith in God. This is an example for me. *“Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.”* (Daniel 6:10)

Thankfulness should be a part of my worship every day. I can pray and leave my requests and petitions with God and do not need to have a care for anything, do not need to worry, because God is in control. This should result in thankfulness in my heart. *“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”* (Philippians 4:6)

In Public Worship:

Thanks should be given in the congregation, among the other saints, so that all can have joy and glorify God together.

*“I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people.”* (Psalm 35:18)

A wonderful example of public thanksgiving can be found in Nehemiah chapters 8 through 12. It is an exciting story and worth the reading for the joy it brings.

### **Thanks should be Given In All Things and For All Things**

*“In every thing give thanks...”*

Why?

*“...for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”*

Here are some other verses for consideration:

*“Giving thanks **always** for **all** things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*  
(Ephesians 5:20)

Why should I give thanks? It is God’s will for me.

When should I give thanks? Always.

For what should I give thanks? Everything – every situation, circumstance, and event.

Should I give thanks **because** bad things happen? This may not necessarily be the point. The point is to give thanks because God is the Giver and Owner of all things. He can give, and He can take. I can give thanks because every situation, circumstance, or event can be used to show who God is and to bring Him glory. Job expressed that the name of the Lord is honored in everything that occurs, *“Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.”* (Job 1:21) Whether God gives or takes, the name of the Lord can be honored and glorified in that situation.

Thanksgiving, however, is not just given with total resignation to the idea that there is no solution for a problem. Philippians 4:6 explains, *“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”* In other words, do not worry about anything. If there is something troubling you pray about it and bring your supplications to God, but do so with thanksgiving. I can give thanks because God knows my trouble and the right solution. The result of bringing all to God and being thankful to Him is peace. This is expressed in verse seven, *“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”*

*“By him therefore let us offer the **sacrifice** of praise to God **continually**, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.”* (Hebrews 13:15)

### **Thanksgiving Should Be Offered Whenever God Blesses a Great Undertaking**

*“<sup>31</sup>Then I brought up the princes of Judah upon the wall, and appointed two great companies of them that gave thanks, whereof one went on the right hand upon the wall toward the dung gate... <sup>40</sup>So stood the two companies of them that gave thanks in the house of God, and I, and the half of the rulers with me: <sup>41</sup>And the priests; Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Michaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah, with trumpets; <sup>42</sup>And Maaseiah, and Shemaiah, and Eleazar, and Uzzi, and Jehohanan, and Malchijah, and Elam, and Ezer. And the singers sang loud, with Jezrahiah their overseer. <sup>43</sup>Also that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced: for God had made them rejoice with great joy: the wives also and the children rejoiced: so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off.”* (Nehemiah 12:31,40-43)

There was great public thanksgiving and rejoicing when the building of the wall of Jerusalem was completed. Rejoicing was among God's people and their leaders. Two great companies were appointed to give thanks. They gave thanks in the house of God along with Nehemiah and half of the rulers. God had done something great, and there was great rejoicing and thanksgiving, so much so that the noise of their joy could be heard afar off.

*“<sup>6</sup>Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises. <sup>7</sup>For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding. <sup>8</sup>God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness. <sup>9</sup>The princes of the people are gathered together, even the people of the God of Abraham: for the shields of the earth belong unto God: he is greatly exalted.”* (Psalm 47:6-9)

*“Behold, bless ye the LORD, all ye servants of the LORD, which by night stand in the house of the LORD. <sup>2</sup>Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the LORD. <sup>3</sup>The LORD that made heaven and earth bless thee out of Zion.”* (Psalm 134)

## Thanks Should Be Given for Food God Has Provided

Why do we “say grace” before we eat, giving thanks to God for our food? Jesus and the apostle Paul both set examples in thanking God for food before partaking.

In John chapter six, Jesus was feeding the five thousand. *“And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.”* (John 6:11)

Paul distributed food to all those on the boat after they had been at sea in a storm for a long time. *“<sup>33</sup>And while the day was coming on, Paul besought them all to take meat, saying, This day is the fourteenth day that ye have tarried and continued fasting, having taken nothing. <sup>34</sup>Wherefore I pray you to take some meat: for this is for your health: for there shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you. <sup>35</sup>And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat. <sup>36</sup>Then were they all of good cheer, and they also took some meat. <sup>37</sup>And we were in all in the ship two hundred threescore and sixteen souls.”* (Acts 27:33-37)

Whether I am in a huge crowd where food seems scarce or in a tough situation waiting for God to do a miracle or simply sitting in my home enjoying a quiet meal, I can be thankful for food and for God’s provision.

## Thanks Should Be Given at the Remembrance of God’s Holiness

*“Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.”* (Psalm 30:4)

*“<sup>8</sup>Zion heard, and was glad; and the daughters of Judah rejoiced because of thy judgments, O LORD. <sup>9</sup>For thou, LORD, art high above all the earth: thou art exalted far above all gods. <sup>10</sup>Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked. <sup>11</sup>Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.”* (Psalm 97:8-12)

One expression of thanks to God is music. *“Sing unto the LORD... give thanks at the remembrance of His holiness.”*

What are some reasons to rejoice and give thanks?

For God’s righteous judgments (Psalm 97:8)

The LORD is high above all the earth.

The LORD is exalted far above all gods (v.9)

He preserves the souls of His saints

He delivers His saints out of the hand of the wicked (v. 10)

Light is sown for the righteous

Gladness is sown for the upright in heart. (v. 11)

The LORD is holy. (v. 12)



Considering all these things, we should rejoice in the Lord and give thanks at the remembrance of His holiness. Thank you God for your holiness and for all the beauty that comes with it! *"Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness."* (Psalm 29:2)

### Thanks Should Be Offered to God for His Goodness and Mercy

*"Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever."*  
(Psalm 106:1)

God saves man out of trouble and redeems them from their sin. These verses tell about that, and they describe many of the things God does to show His goodness and mercy. *"O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever...<sup>8</sup> Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!<sup>9</sup> For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness...<sup>13</sup> Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them out of their distresses.<sup>14</sup> He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and brake their bands in sunder.<sup>15</sup> Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!...<sup>19</sup> Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he saveth them out of their distresses.<sup>20</sup> He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.<sup>21</sup> Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!<sup>22</sup> And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing...<sup>28</sup> Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses.<sup>29</sup> He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still.<sup>30</sup> Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven.<sup>31</sup> Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!<sup>32</sup> Let them exalt him also in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders...<sup>35</sup> He turneth the wilderness into a standing water, and dry ground into watersprings.<sup>36</sup> And there he maketh the hungry to dwell, that they may prepare a city for habitation;<sup>37</sup> And sow the fields, and plant vineyards, which may yield fruits of increase.<sup>38</sup> He blesseth them also, so that they are multiplied greatly; and suffereth not their cattle to decrease.<sup>41</sup> Yet setteth he the poor on high from affliction, and maketh him families like a flock.<sup>42</sup> The righteous shall see it, and rejoice: and all iniquity shall stop her mouth.<sup>43</sup> Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the LORD."* (from Psalm 107)

### Thanks Should Be Offered to God for the Gift of His Son, Jesus Christ

This gift is so great that no words can describe its goodness and wonder.

*"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."* (II Corinthians 9:15)

The Bible tells many wonderful things about this Gift, the Savior, which is Christ the Lord. Notice how many times the word "give" or one of its forms is used in the following verses.

Jesus Christ is many things to us. *"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."* (Isaiah 9:6)

A light for all and salvation to go to the ends of the earth. *“And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: **I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.**”* (Isaiah 49:6)

Fullness and grace. *“And of his fulness **have all we received, and grace for grace.**”* (John 1:16)

Everlasting life. *“For God so loved the world, that **he gave** his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* (John 3:16)

*“For the wages of sin is death; but the **gift** of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* (Romans 6:23)

Life through Jesus, the Son of God. The manifestation of God’s love to us. The propitiation (or satisfaction; sacrifice that satisfied God’s wrath) for our sins. *“<sup>9</sup>In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”* (I John 4:9,10)

These verses do not use the word “give” or “gift,” but they certainly bring out that same message. God manifested, or showed, His love for us by sending His only begotten Son into the world that we might live through Him. God manifested His love for us in that He sent His Son to be the propitiation, or satisfaction for our sins, to a holy God.

God gave us eternal life in His Son and all who have the Son have this life. Do you have the Son? *“And this is the record, that **God hath given** to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup>He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”* (I John 5:11,12)

How great and bountiful is this gift! Truly, *“Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.”*

### **Thanks Will Be Given when God Takes to Himself His Great Power and Reigns**

*“<sup>15</sup>And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. <sup>16</sup>And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, <sup>17</sup>Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.”* (Revelations 11:17) There is so much evil now, but one day God will take to Himself His great power and will reign. The kingdoms of this world will become His kingdoms, and there will be no more evil. And God and Christ will reign forever and ever.

Revelation 19:6, 11-21 tell more about this great day in which God will take His great power and reign. *“<sup>6</sup>And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth... <sup>11</sup>And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. <sup>12</sup>His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. <sup>13</sup>And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. <sup>14</sup>And the armies which were in*

heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. <sup>15</sup>And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. <sup>16</sup>And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. <sup>17</sup>And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; <sup>18</sup>That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. <sup>19</sup>And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. <sup>20</sup>And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. <sup>21</sup>And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh."

Not only will those who fear God and those who worship around the throne in heaven be glad when God takes His power to Himself and reigns; but the earth, nature, will be glad also. Consider these verses from Psalm 96, "<sup>9</sup>O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth. <sup>10</sup>Say among the heathen that the LORD reigneth: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: he shall judge the people righteously. <sup>11</sup>Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof. <sup>12</sup>Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice <sup>13</sup>Before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth."

All of Psalm 98 describes this wonderful day in which God will come to reign. This Psalm is also filled with rejoicing. "O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory. <sup>2</sup>The LORD hath made known his salvation: his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen. <sup>3</sup>He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. <sup>4</sup>Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise. <sup>5</sup>Sing unto the LORD with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm. <sup>6</sup>With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the LORD, the King. <sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. <sup>8</sup>Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together <sup>9</sup>Before the LORD; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity." There will never be an unfair judgment again or any evil or any sin. Those who fear God will sing a new song and will rejoice because the LORD will make known His salvation and show His righteousness. He will remember His mercy and truth to Israel and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of God. The earth will ring with a loud and joyful noise before the LORD and everyone will sing His praise. The sea, the floods, the hills and all the earth will be joyful together before the LORD.

Thank you, God, that there is coming this beautiful day!

## **Thanks Should Be Offered When People Receive God's Word and God's Word Works in Their Hearts**

When others receive God's word and it works in their hearts and they come to faith in Him, this should cause me so much rejoicing that I offer my thanksgiving to Him.

*"<sup>13</sup>For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."* (I Thessalonians 2:13)

This verse shows that thanks is given because those who received God's word knew for certain that it was the word of God. The word of God worked effectually in them.

*"<sup>2</sup>We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; <sup>3</sup>Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father."* (I Thessalonians 1:2,3)

Here thanksgiving is accompanied by prayer. The following things are remembered with thanksgiving and prayer – work of faith, labour of love, patience of hope in the Lord Jesus Christ.

*"<sup>8</sup>First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. <sup>9</sup>For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers."* (Romans 1:8,9)

Again, prayer and thanksgiving are offered together. Not only is thanks offered that these people have faith but that others see their faith and it is spoken of throughout the whole world; that is, they have a good testimony. Do I have a good testimony?

*"<sup>17</sup>But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. <sup>18</sup>Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."* (Romans 6:17,18)

In this verse, thanks is given because those who were once the servants of sin are now the servants of righteousness.

There are so many things to be thankful for when others hear and receive the word of God and the word of God works in their hearts.

God, please help me to delight in the salvation and spiritual growth and maturity of my brothers and sisters in Christ! In Jesus name, Amen.

## **Thanks Should Be Offered for Deliverance from Indwelling Sin and Victory Over Sin**

*"<sup>23</sup>But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. <sup>24</sup>O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? <sup>25</sup>I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."* (Romans 7:23-25)

In my flesh, I have no power over sin. I am brought into captivity to the law of sin. But Jesus Christ can deliver me from this captivity, and I should thank Him for that deliverance. One secret to victory over sin is for me to *"be... in the fear of the LORD all the day long."* (Proverbs 23:17b) When I look at the circumstances and fear them or try to figure out a way to conquer the sin in my own strength, then I do

not have victory. I either give into that sin, or things do not turn out the way they should. How soon I forget to be in the fear of the Lord! But, how much that would help me!

*“And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.”* (I Peter 1:17) When I am tempted by sin, my recourse is to call on my Father and to walk in His fear. Why? <sup>18</sup>*“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; <sup>19</sup>But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”* (I Peter 1:18,19)

Thank You, God, for the gift of Your Son Jesus Christ. Thank You, God, for redemption through Your Son Jesus Christ. Thank You, Jesus, for Your blood that You shed to redeem me and make me Your own. Thank You that, through these things, I can walk in Your fear all the day long and I can have victory over sin.

### **Thanks Should Be Offered to God for Victory over Death and the Grave**

Oh, what a beautiful, wonderful thing! A Christian does not need to fear death, or the grave, because Jesus has given the victory over these things. <sup>54</sup>*“So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. <sup>55</sup>O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? <sup>56</sup>The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup>But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (I Corinthians 15:54-57)

A Christian who dies makes a great exchange. The Christian exchanges corruption for incorruption; mortality for immortality; death for victory; the sting of death (sin) for complete freedom of sin; the condemnation of the law for the total removal of guilt and judgment. For a Christian, death is not the end, it is the victory! And this victory is given to us through our Lord Jesus Christ!

Victory is always available through Christ. *“Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.”* (II Corinthians 2:14)

Job was an example of victory over death. Job lived before Christ came to this earth, but he looked forward to the day when the Messiah would come and he trusted in God. He had assurance of victory over death and also assurance of resurrection. <sup>25</sup>*“For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: <sup>26</sup>And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: <sup>27</sup>Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.”* (Job 19:25-27)

Job had assurance of several things:

My redeemer lives

My redeemer will stand at the latter day upon the earth

Even though my flesh is destroyed and eaten of worms, I will see God in my flesh; I will have a new body.

I will see God for myself. My eyes will behold Him. Even though my earthly body is consumed away, I will see God with my own eyes. It will be God and not another; it will be I who sees Him and not another.

What beautiful hope! What wonderful assurance! I thank God that this same hope and assurance is available to me today through the victory given by the Lord Jesus Christ. Do you have that hope and assurance today?

### **O The Glad Good News**

1. Hear the message from above,  
Wonderful the news!  
God bestows on us His love,  
Wonderful the news!  
All earth's weary ones are blest  
Who have Jesus Christ confessed;  
Jesus gives them peace and rest,  
Wonderful the news!

Chorus:

Oh, the blessed message!  
Oh, the gracious news!  
On the tree Christ died for me,  
Oh, the glad, good news!

2. Jesus took the sinner's place,  
Oh, the precious news!  
Offers now to all His grace,  
Oh, the precious news!  
He atoned on Calvary,  
From my sins to ransom me,  
To forever set me free;  
Oh, the precious news!

3. Have you heard of Jesus' power  
Oh, the gracious news!  
Manifest each passing hour?  
Oh, the gracious news!  
He has come to my poor soul  
My affections to control,  
And His blood has made me whole;  
Oh, the gracious news!

~Elisha A. Hoffman

## Thanks Should Be Offered to God for Wisdom and Strength that He Bestows

Daniel and his three friends were facing a very difficult and frightening situation. King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. This dream troubled him, but he could not remember the dream. He wanted someone to tell him what the dream was and also to interpret it for him. None of the magicians, astrologers, sorcerers or Chaldeans in his kingdom could do it. Because of this, the king was very angry and gave commandment to destroy all the wise men in Babylon. This included Daniel and Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions. Daniel requested time from the king and then went to his three friends. Together *“they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. <sup>19</sup>Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. <sup>20</sup>Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his.”* (Daniel 2:18-20)

Daniel was very thankful that God had revealed this secret and the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream to him. God could do this because all wisdom and might belongs to Him. Daniel said, *“I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king’s matter.”* (verse 23) God has this wisdom and might and God gave of this wisdom and might to Daniel so that Daniel could do the work God wanted him to do.

I can have this wisdom and might too. James says to ask for wisdom because God will give it freely. *“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”* (James 1:5)

Thank You, God, that I can seek You, and You will give me all the wisdom and might I need to do the task you have for me to do. If I need wisdom and might, I only have to ask because it all belongs to You and You will freely give.

### A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1. A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;  
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing:  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.
2. Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;  
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God’s own choosing:  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;  
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,  
And He must win the battle.
3. And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us:  
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;  
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,  
One little word shall fell him.

4. That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth:  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;  
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,  
His kingdom is forever.

~Martin Luther

### **Thanks Should Be Offered When Godly Fruit is Manifest in the Lives of Others**

I should rejoice when people are saved, and this salvation is made evident by growth and godly fruit in their lives.

Salvation:

*"But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you."* (Romans 6:17)

Faith:

I should give God thanks when the faith of brothers and sisters in Christ is spoken of by others. *"First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world."* (Romans 1:8)

I should give thanks to God when my brothers and sisters in Christ grow in faith.

*"We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly."* (II Thessalonians 1:3a)

Love:

*"We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because ... the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth."* (II Thessalonians 1:3)

This thanksgiving should be coupled by prayer.

*"This I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment."* (Philippians 1:9)

Grace:

*"I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ."* (I Corinthians 1:4)

Fellowship:

Fellowship with the saints is a treasure worthy of much thanksgiving.

*"<sup>3</sup>I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup>Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, <sup>5</sup>For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now."* (Philippians 1:3-5)

Hope:

*"<sup>3</sup>We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you... <sup>5</sup>For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel."* (Colossians 1:3,5)



Fruit:

I should give God thanks when I see the fruits of the gospel manifest in the lives of others.

*"...the gospel; <sup>6</sup>Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth."* (Colossians 1:6)

### **Thanks Should Be Offered to God Because He Is Always Present**

*"Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks: for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare."* (Psalm 75:1)

I should give thanks because God's name is near. Why is that such a wonderful thing? Because there is power in His name. Proverbs 18:10 says *"The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe."* At His name, the devils (evil spirits) tremble (James 2:19)

The Bible assures, *"Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him."* (Psalm 85:9a) Psalm 119:151 promises, *"Thou art near, O LORD; and all thy commandments are truth."*

*<sup>18</sup>The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. <sup>19</sup>He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them. <sup>20</sup>The LORD preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy. <sup>21</sup>My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD: and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever."* (Psalm 145:18-21) The LORD is nigh and He will hear my cry and preserve me. Therefore my mouth should speak His praise and bless His holy name.

Thank you, God, that you are near!

### **Thanks Should Be Offered to God Because He Has a Place for Us to Minister**

The apostle Paul said, *"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry."* (I Timothy 1:12) It is not of ourselves that we have a place to minister or the ability to do ministry. Christ Jesus puts us into our place of ministry. He does the enabling, and it is an honor to serve Him. If we have a ministry or have found our place to minister, we should thank Christ Jesus because He enabled us to do it and counted us faithful. Lord, help me not fail that trust and that privilege. I need Your enabling more and more.

Lead Me Savior

1. Savior, lead me, lest I stray,  
Gently lead me all the way;  
I am safe when by Thy side,  
I would in Thy love abide.

Chorus:

Lead me, lead me,  
Savior, lead me lest I stray;  
All throughout my years of life,  
Lead me, Savior, all the way.

2. Thou the refuge of my soul  
When life's stormy billows roll,  
I am safe for Thou art nigh,  
All my hopes on Thee rely.

3. Savior, lead me, home at last  
When the storm of life is past,  
To the land of endless day,  
Where all tears are wiped away.

~Frank M. Davis, edited

### Thanks Should Be Offered to God Because He Supplies All Our Physical Needs

Philippians 4:19,20 says, <sup>19</sup>*But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.* <sup>20</sup>*Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.* These verses do not directly mention thanksgiving, but they do mention giving glory to God. When God is praised and glorified for doing something for us, thanksgiving is a natural part of that praise and glory given to Him.

Consider what God wants to do for us. <sup>9</sup>*Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:* <sup>10</sup>*So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.* (Proverbs 3:9,10) If I am faithful to honor God with what He has given me and to give back to Him the firstfruits of all the increase He has given me, God promises to be faithful to fill me up with everything I need. These verses specifically mention physical provision. God will provide if I honor Him. II Corinthians 9:6-11 explains, <sup>6</sup>*But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.* <sup>7</sup>*Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.* <sup>8</sup>*And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:* <sup>9</sup>*(As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.* <sup>10</sup>*Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)* <sup>11</sup>*Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, **which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.*** If I am faithful to God with my substance, God will both increase the fruits of my righteousness (spiritual increase) and also supply all that I need physically. That will cause thanksgiving to God.

There is no need to fear or be anxious about tomorrow because, if I am faithful to give back to the Lord from that which He has given me, the Lord will supply **all** I need. *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and **all** these things shall be added unto you.”* (Matthew 6:33) Thank You, God, that You know and will supply **all** my needs.

## Thanks Should Accompany Intercession for Others

When I pray for others, thanksgiving should be a part of my prayer – thanksgiving for that person because of the Lord Jesus and thanksgiving that God is going to answer my prayer about that person.

Thanksgiving should be offered to God during intercession for others because God wants all men to be saved. <sup>1</sup>*I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;* <sup>2</sup>*For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.* <sup>3</sup>*For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;* <sup>4</sup>*Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”* (I Timothy 2:1-4)

Thanks should be offered to God during intercession when I remember that the one I am praying for has a testimony of unfeigned (real, not faked) faith in the Lord Jesus. <sup>3</sup>*I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;* <sup>4</sup>*Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy;* <sup>5</sup>*When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee.”* (II Timothy 1:3-5a)

Thanks should be offered to God with joy during intercession because of the faithfulness of another believer. <sup>4</sup>*I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers,* <sup>5</sup>*Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints;* <sup>6</sup>*That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.* <sup>7</sup>*For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother.”*

Thank You, God, that I can intercede for others with joy and thanksgiving!

## Offering of Thanks Should Always Accompany Prayer

An example was set for me in the book of Nehemiah in the Old Testament, *“And Mattaniah the son of Micha, the son of Zabdi, the son of Asaph, was the principal to begin **the thanksgiving in prayer:** and Bakkukiah the second among his brethren, and Abda the son of Shammua, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun.”* (Nehemiah 11:17)

Philippians 4:6 encourages, *“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”*

Colossians 4:2 tells me to *“Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving.”*

If something troubles me, God says, do not worry. In everything you can pray and petition your heavenly Father, offering up your thanks as you pray. Prayer is something to be continued in. I should continue in prayer and watch in thanksgiving. Lord, give me a thankful heart!

## Offering of Thanks Should Always Accompany Singing and Praise

Psalm 92:1,2 says, *"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: <sup>2</sup>To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night."* It is good to give thanks to the Lord. This can be expressed in my praise songs to the most High. This can show forth God's lovingkindness in the morning and His faithfulness every night. Great is God's faithfulness. There is no shadow of turning with God. He is the same every night, and He shows new lovingkindness each morning.

Because God is full of lovingkindness and because He is faithful, *"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."* (Hebrews 13:5)

Give me, Lord, a heart of thankfulness, and put upon my lips a song of praise!

We'll Win The Day!

1. We are coming! We are coming!  
From the east and from the west;  
Onward, soldiers, stand for Jesus,  
Fight for Him you love the best.

Chorus:

We are coming! We are coming!  
Eager now to join the fray;  
With the Savior as our Captain,  
We will surely win the day.

2. We are coming! We are coming!  
With His banner floating high;  
From the north and south we're coming,  
Him to serve until we die.

3. We are coming! We are coming!  
With the gospel armor on,  
Great in number, bound to conquer  
In the name of God's own Son.

4. We are coming! We are coming!  
Precious Christ, our joy and song;  
As we march we'll gather trophies  
All the earthly way along.

~Mrs. Harriet E. Jones