

God's People Give Thanks

Lessons from the Bible about thanksgiving are numerous. We learn about the failure of thanksgiving from unthankful people and the need for it from grateful people. We learn the numerous causes for it, both physical and spiritual. We learn the important time for it; year-around, not just once a year. And, we learn the manner of thanksgiving in prayer and praise.

What happens when God's people give thanks? Well, read the short chapter of Isaiah 12 and you will find out. This chapter closes the first section of Isaiah on a positive note with a song of thanks from God's faithful remnant. What happens?

First, thanksgiving brings comfort (12:1). God's people will give thanks to the Lord and he will comfort them in it.

Second, thanksgiving brings trust (12:2). God's people will trust in the Lord for their strength and their salvation.

Third, thanksgiving brings joy (12:3). God's people with joy will "draw waters out of the wells of salvation".

Fourth, thanksgiving brings expression (12:4-6). God's people will speak their thanksgiving to others, not just think about it. They will declare their thanks to others, sing about it, and shout it out.

God's people have a lot to be thankful for and it shows. Do you? - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- In order to increase in faith, you must grow in knowledge of God's word.
- What you are going to be tomorrow, you are becoming today.
- God writes with a pen that never blots, speaks with a tongue that never slips, and acts with a hand that never fails.
- The devil is an artist. He paints sin in very attractive colors.
- Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

What Saying “Thank You” Will Do For You?

It is good to give thanks to the Lord and to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your lovingkindness in the morning and your faithfulness by night (Psalm 92:1-2)

Note that the psalmist says “it is good to give thanks”. From this we learn that there is something about giving thanks to the Lord that is good for us. Thanksgiving is therapeutic. So, what’s so good about giving thanks to the Lord. What will saying “thank you” do for you? Let’s see how it will do three important things for you.

It Will Improve Your Own Perspective in Life

First, saying “thank you” will improve your perspective about yourself. When you say “thank you”, you are saying, in effect, that you are not self-sufficient. It will curb your ego and remind you that you are needy (Deuteronomy 8:1 Iff; Romans 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:2). You need God and other faithful Christians in your life.

Second, saying “thank you” will improve your perspective about material things. When you say “thank you”, you are acknowledging that all you have is not actually yours. You recognized that

you are simply a steward of all that God has given you and you are trying to give back to him a faithful service in return (2 Corinthians 2:14; 1 Peter 4:10). You are stewards of your material things, your body, your marriage, your family, etc.

Third, saying “thank you” will improve your perspective about God. When you say “thank you”, you are forced to think about God the giver of all good gifts (James 1:17) and about Christ the savior of all mankind (1 Timothy 1:12).

It Will Develop Your Positive Attitude in Life

Many people today live a “down-in-the-dumps” life. They have a sour disposition toward many things. But, a person who is thankful is generally nice, kind, humble, courteous, and civil. A thankful person is simply a nice person to be around because of his positive attitude.

Paul writes that thankful Christians will also be people who are joyful (Philippians 4:4-7; 1 Thessalonians 3:9). Thankful Christians can voice their thanks (Luke 17:11-19), sing their thanks (Colossians 3:16), pray their thanks (Ephesians 1:16; 1 Thessalonians 1:2; 1 Timothy 1:2), write out their thanks (Romans 1:8), and act out

their thanks (Colossians 3:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:18).

It Will Produce Your Attractive Influence in Life

People today want to be attractive. Consider all the TV commercials, movies, magazines, and music that focus on how a person looks. Physical beauty is attractive to many. But, people who are thankful are more attractive. People are attracted to a humble and grateful person. The Christian is attractive because of the way he or she dresses. The Christian has “put on” the Lord (Romans 13:14), “put on” Christ (Galatians 3:27), and “put on” the new man (Ephesians 4:24). Christians “put on” many godly qualities each day including thankfulness (Colossians 3:10-15).

Is thanksgiving just a command in the Bible (Ephesians 5:20), just a social courtesy, or just a once-a-year holiday? No, it is much more! Saying “thank you” will actually do you good. Friend, does your perspective on life need changing? Does your attitude need adjusting? Does your influence need remodeling? Try saying “thank you” more. “It is good to give thanks to the Lord” (Psalm 92:1). - *Chris Reeves*