

“A Heart of Thanksgiving”

Ephesians 5:15-21

“The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God.”

*“It is only with gratitude that
life becomes rich.”*

**I. Giving Thanks Brings God into our
Consciousness So that We Might Honor Him**
A. A Warning

“It is probable that in most of us the spiritual life is impoverished and stunted because we give so little place to gratitude. It is more important to thank God for blessings received than to pray for them beforehand. For that forward-looking prayer, though right as an expression of dependence upon God, is still self-centered in part, at least, of its interest; there is something we hope to gain by our prayer. But the backward-looking act of thanksgiving is quite free from this.” – William Temple

2 Timothy 3:1-5

But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, slanderers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness although they have denied its power; avoid such people as these.

Romans 1:21

For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their reasonings, and their senseless hearts were darkened.

Luke 6:35

But love your enemies and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil *people*.

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A. A Warning

B. What Gratitude Does

II. Giving Thanks is Appropriate at All Times

1 Thessalonians 5:18

In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 5:20

always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to our God and Father

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A. Our Natural Response

B. Why Giving Thanks Honors God

“We ought to give thanks for all fortune: if it is “good”, because it is good, if “bad” because it works in us patience, humility and the contempt of this world and the hope of our eternal country.”

- C.S. Lewis

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A. Our Natural Response

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III. Giving Thanks is the Response of One Filled with the Spirit

A. What it Means to be Filled with the Spirit

B. Results of Being Filled with the Spirit

“Thou hast given so much to me,
Give one thing more – a grateful heart:
Not thankful when it pleaseth me
As if thy blessings had spare days.
But such a heart whose pulse may be Thy praise”
-George Herbert

Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and
voices

Who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world
rejoices

Who from our mother's arms, hath blessed us on our
way

With countless gifts of love and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be
near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer
us
And keep us in his grace and guide us when
perplexed
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be
given,
The Son, and him who reigns with them in highest
heaven,
The one eternal God whom earth and heaven
adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

