

## **Thankfulness Is...**

1 Thessalonians 5:18 - "Give thanks in everything, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

- 1) People in the lowest level constantly complain. These folks are always griping and complaining. Rather than being humbly grateful, they're grumbly hateful.
- 2) The second level is just a tad higher. These are not people who are constantly complaining; they just never give thanks for anything. They take things for granted.
- 3) The third level are those who thank God for the obvious blessings, when things are going good and everything is fine.
- 4) But the fourth level, the highest level, are those who give thanks always for all things.

### **I. Thankfulness is a key to a strong society!**

Romans 1:18-32

18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness,

19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

21 For although they knew God, THEY NEITHER GLORIFIED HIM AS GOD NOR GAVE THANKS TO HIM, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools

23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

25 They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

26 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones.

27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

28 Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done.

29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips,

30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents;

31 they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy.

32 Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

Benjamin Franklin - "The sentence which has most influenced my life is, 'Some people grumble because God placed thorns among roses. Why not thank God because He placed roses among thorns?'"

## **II. Thankfulness is a cure for deceitful emotions!**

Ephesians 4:23 - to be made new in the attitude of your minds;

Ephesians 4:31 - Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

Ephesians 5:18-20

18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT,

19 speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,

20 always GIVING THANKS to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 4:6 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, WITH THANKSGIVING, present your requests to God.

Ephesians 4:21-22 - "You have certainly heard his message and have been taught his ways. The truth is in Jesus. You were taught to change the way you were living. The person you used to be will ruin you through desires that deceive you"

Re-cognizing = reminding yourself, bringing back to mind

"Count your blessings, name them one by one,  
Count your blessings, see what God hath done!  
Count your blessings, name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done!"

1 Thessalonians 5:18 - "Give thanks in everything, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

### **III. Thankfulness is an acknowledgement of God's blessings!**

Psalm 68:19 - "Thanks be to the Lord, who daily carries our burdens for us. God is our salvation!"

A) We should give thanks even in suffering!

B) We should give thanks even in sorrow!

Job 1:20-21

20 At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship

21 and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised."

### **IV. Thankfulness is the ticket to a satisfying life!**

1 Peter 2:9 - But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Hebrews 13:15-16

15 "Through Jesus we should always bring God a sacrifice of praise, that is, words that acknowledge him.

16 Don't forget to do good things for others and to share what you have with them. These are the kinds of sacrifices that please God."

Psalm 16:11 "You reveal the path of life to me; in Your presence is abundant joy; in Your right hand are eternal pleasures."

John 10:10 - The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full (KJV-abundant life).

Psalm 100:4 - "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and praise His name."

Psalm 36:8 - "God, Your faithful love is so valuable that people take refuge in the shadow of Your wings. They are filled from the abundance of Your house; You let them drink from Your refreshing stream."

Psalm 63:5 - "You satisfy me as with rich food; my mouth will praise You with joyful lips.

Dennis Prager - "There is a 'secret to happiness, and it is gratitude. All happy people are grateful, and ungrateful people cannot be happy. We tend to think that it is being unhappy that leads people to complain, but it is truer to say that it is complaining that leads to people to becoming unhappy. Become grateful and you will become a much happier person."

What should thankfulness do in our lives?

T-ake away our grumbling

H-eighten our giving

A-ctivate our serving

N-ullify our deceitful feelings

K-eeep our testimony strong

F-ortify our joy

U-pgrade our vision

L-ift up our Lord

Thankfulness is having an appropriate grasp of all God has done and is doing for us accompanied by the appropriate attitude of gratefulness for His activity!