

It's All About Thanksgiving – Bible Study Lesson

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NASB)

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

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (TLB)

18 No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

When you show favor to someone who doesn't know how to respond, you are then constrained from showing them favor in the future. It's natural. Thank you is what qualifies you for the next act of favor. Thus, the person extending the favor has had to withdraw.

The Kingdom of God works through a system of sowing and reaping. One always comes before the other. Sowing always precedes reaping. **In between the seed and the harvest is always time.** God holds himself to His own system. He only has 2 categories of gifts: **Good and Perfect.** The unique thing is that like sowing and reaping, one always precedes the other. How you handle the one, will determine if you qualify for the other. **In between the good and the perfect is always thank you.** With this in mind, let's examine: **It's All About Thanksgiving.**

Psalms 100:4-5 (NASB)

**4 Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise.
Give thanks to Him, bless His name.**

**5 For the Lord is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting And His
faithfulness to all generations.**

The Bible is clear. Thanksgiving is a requirement and a prerequisite for entering into the presence of an almighty God. It's not a request. Anyone coming to God without a posture of thanksgiving is a trespasser. Thus, appreciation prepares us for God's company.

1. Thanksgiving grants us access to God's presence.

Ruth 2:6-10 (NASB)

6 The servant in charge of the reapers replied, "She is the young Moabite woman who returned with Naomi from the land of Moab.

7 And she said, 'Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.' Thus she came and has remained from the morning until now; she has been sitting in the house for a little while."

8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Listen carefully, my daughter. Do not go to glean in another field; furthermore, do not go on from this one, but stay here with my maids.

9 Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. Indeed, I have commanded the servants not to touch you. When you are thirsty, go to the water jars and drink from what the servants draw."

10 Then she fell on her face, bowing to the ground and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your sight that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?"

Thanksgiving is magnetic. Thankful people are attractive. When you are thankful, people will want what you have. Thanksgiving is the seed for more. Although Ruth didn't have much. She was thankful for what she did have. That's when somebody took notice. Remember, there is always someone watching you who is capable of blessing you and helping you with the assignment God has given you. **YOU WILL ATTRACT WHAT YOU'RE THANKFUL FOR. YOU WILL REPEL WHAT YOU DON'T APPRECIATE.**

2. Thanksgiving allows us to draw others to God.

Deuteronomy 8:10-14 (NASB)

10 When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land which He has given you.

11 “Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments and His ordinances and His statutes which I am commanding you today;

12 otherwise, when you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built good houses and lived in them,

13 and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold multiply, and all that you have multiplies,

14 then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

Thankfulness is a learned attitude. It is created by your focus. If you focus on what you don't have, you will forget to be thankful for what you do have. They tried to teach us when we were a child the attitude of thankfulness. When you give children candy, they immediately put it in their mouths. You stop them and say, **“Now what do you say?”** That's one of the biggest problems with today's society. Nobody learned to be thankful. So, they think the world owes them something. **OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO OUR CHILDREN IS TO TEACH THEM TO APPRECIATE WHAT GOD HAS DONE AND IS DOING FOR THEM.**

3. Thanksgiving teaches us proper perspective.

Psalm 107:21-22 (NASB)

21 Let them give thanks to the Lord for His lovingkindness, And for His wonders to the sons of men!

22 Let them also offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, And tell of His works with joyful singing.

Thankfulness begins when we replay memories of God's blessings. Thankfulness should occur because of the goodness of God, not because of perfect circumstances. Remember, God is good, even on a bad day. We can thank God that peace and joy are not the absence of pain. **IT IS THE PRESENCE OF GOD RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF IT ALL.**

4. Thanksgiving reminds us of the origin of our supply.

Acts 17:28 (NASB)

28 for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.'

A few years back, there was a big push to be proud of independence. **"All the women who're independent, throw your hands up at me."** It sounded cool. But, it reinforced an, "I did it on my own," attitude. Too many people are trying to do it without God. **YOU HAVE NOTHING TO PROVE. EVERYTHING YOU HAVE, CAME FROM GOD.**

5. Thanksgiving gives us proof of dependence on God.

God only has 2 categories of gifts: **Good and Perfect.** The unique thing is that like sowing and reaping, one always precedes the other. How you handle the one, will determine if you qualify for the other. Remember, **In between the good and the perfect is always thank you.**