

## **"BEING A THANKFUL PERSON"**

### **PSALM 100:1-5**

**INTRO:** Among all of the people on the face of the earth, CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE THE MOST THANKFUL! WHY?

- Because we have the forgiveness of all of our sins.
- Because we have the power to live in the circumstances of life.
- Because we have the assurance of Heaven.
- Because we have a relationship with the God of God and King of Kings.
- Because we have the knowledge that the best is yet to come.

**AND YET, MANY CHRISTIANS HARDLY, IF EVER, EXPRESS AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE.** (Harry). Those of us who know the Lord have the promise of a life that is worth living through faith in Jesus Christ (John 10:10). Therefore, even in the storms of life (COVID, Physical Needs, Financial Problems, National Concerns, etc), **THANKFULNESS IS A CHARACTERISTIC THAT SHOULD FLOW FROM OUR HEARTS.**

**THINK OF IT:**

- A Thankful Christian has a good testimony for Christ.
- A Thankful Christian is an encouragement to others.
- A Thankful Christian is a productive servant of the Lord.
- A Thankful Christian has a life of true worship to God.
- A Thankful Christian knows the joy of the Lord.
- A Thankful Christian is an influential person.

### **SOME PERSONAL QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER ON BEING THANKFUL:**

- Do you consider yourself to be a thankful person?
- Do others who know you recognize you to be a thankful person?
- Does God see you as a thankful person?

Today we are going to study the Word of God so as to see what it says about being a THANKFUL PERSON. The conclusion we will come to is that **GOD WANTS HIS CHILDREN TO BE THANKFUL PEOPLE AND HE EVEN ENABLES US TO BE THANKFUL PEOPLE, AND THUS WE HAVE NO EXCUSE TO BE UNTHANKFUL...EVEN IN THE BAD TIMES OF LIFE.**

### **WORDS DESCRIBING THE OPPOSITE OF BEING THANKFUL:**

-Ingratitude, unappreciation, apathy, disdain, disregard, hate, ignorance, insensitivity, unappreciativeness, rudeness, criticism, disbelief, dishonor, indifference, thoughtlessness, unmannerliness, lack of appreciation, disrespect. **DO ANY OF THESE WORDS DESCRIBE YOU TODAY?** If so, **YOU ARE NOT THANKFUL.**

### **SOME BIBLICAL CONCEPTS OF BEING THANKFUL**

#### **I. BEING THANKFUL IS EXPECTED BY GOD**

- A. Being Thankful is Commanded in Scripture  
-1 Chronicles 16:7-13; Psalm 100:4; 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- B. Being Thankful is Consequential in Scripture  
-1 Corinthians 15:56; 2 Corinthians 9:15

#### **II. BEING THANKFUL IS EMPOWERED BY GOD**

**A QUESTION:** If God expects us to be thankful, AND HE DOES; and If God knows that in our human weakness being thankful may not always be the attitude we express, AND HE KNOWS THAT; THEN HOW CAN HE EXPECT US TO BE THANKFUL?

**THE ANSWER:** **GOD HIMSELF ENABLES US TO BE THANKFUL, IF ONLY WE WILL ALLOW HIM TO DO SO.**

**BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE:** **GOD WILL NEVER GIVE US A COMMAND WITHOUT GIVING US THE ENABLEMENT TO DO IT.**

### **THERE ARE THREE ATTITUDES OF THANKSGIVING**

- 1) It is Unnecessary – Held by those who think God owes them prosperity.
- 2) It is Hypocritical – Just a “put-on” but not real.
- 3) It is True – Genuine thanks to God for all things.

**GOD’S EMPOWERMENT TO BE THANKFUL COMES THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**EPHESIANS 5:18-20**

A. The Meaning of Being “Filled with the Spirit”

1. Do not confuse the FILLING OF THE SPIRIT with the INDWELLING OF THE SPIRIT.
  - a. The Indwelling of the Spirit is Unconditional at Salvation
  - b. The Filling with the Spirit is Conditional upon Obedience
2. As Alcohol controls an intoxicated person, so the Holy Spirit controls an Obedient Christian.

B. The Means of Being “Filled with the Spirit”

1. Remember that being “Filled with the Spirit” is a Command
2. Remember that being “Filled with the Spirit” is a Choice

A SIMPLE FORMULA FOR BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

SAYING NO TO SIN AND SELF AND YES TO THE WORD OF GOD EQUALS BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

C. The Measure of Being “Filled with the Spirit”

A CHRISTIAN WHO IS FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT OF GOD MANIFESTS ALL OF THE CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTERISTICS TAUGHT BY THE WORD OF GOD...INCLUDING MAINTAINING A SPIRIT OF THANKSGIVING.

1. “Giving Thanks Always” – Because God is in Control of our Lives.
2. “For All Things” – Because God has given us ALL THINGS for our good.
3. “Unto God and the Father” – Because God is the SOURCE of all things.
4. “In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ” – Because we are IN Him.

(A Mature Christian will express Thanks as Christ expressed Thanks Always)

(Mark 8:6; John 11:41; Luke 22:19)

**III. BEING THANKFUL IS EXALTING TO GOD**

**GOD WILL ALWAYS BE EXALTED IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH WHEN HIS CHILDREN ARE THANKFUL!**

**LESSON/APPLICATION**