

November 18th & 19th, 2023

A Heart of Thankfulness

Psalm 92:1-7

What is thankfulness?

- ❖ The concept of thanksgiving evolves theologically throughout the Bible. In the Old Testament, it is closely tied with the verb “to bless” (בָּרַךְ, Barakh; e.g., Deut. 8:10). The most common Hebrew noun used for “thanks” (תּוֹדָה, Todah) derives from the verb “to praise, confess” (יָדָה, Yadah). While Genesis bears little evidence of individuals offering thanks to God, by the time of Leviticus, the Israelites had instituted a thanks offering as part of the sacrificial system (Lev. 7:11–15). Thanksgiving bears a prominent place in the Psalms, both on an individual (e.g., Psalm 116) and communal (e.g., Psalm 100) level.ⁱ

Deuteronomy 8:10 “And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land He has given you.”

Psalm 103:1-2 “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits,”

- ❖ THANKSGIVING (תּוֹדָה, todah; εὐχαριστία, eucharistia). The act of offering thanks or being thankful, usually to God. Often connected to provision, deliverance, or God’s character. Commonly associated in Scripture with meals and worship.ⁱⁱ

Psalm 50:14 “Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High,”

Psalm 56:12-13 “I must perform my vows to You, O God; I will render thank offerings to You. For You have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of life.”

- Acknowledgement of receiving something good from God and showing appreciation for it.

- ❖ Biblical gratitude is not based on circumstances; but on God, who is working through the circumstances.

Called to be Thankful

Psalm 92:1-4 “It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your steadfast love in the morning, and Your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre. For You, O Lord, have made me glad by Your work; at the works of Your hands I sing for joy.”

- ❖ When we are genuinely thankful, it is because we are content and purposeful in the Lord.

Colossians 3:15-17 “And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18 “give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

Ephesians 5:20 “giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ,”

- ❖ We live in a generation that is unthankful.

Romans 1:21-23 “For although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.”

2 Timothy 3:1-5 “But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.”

1 Timothy 4:1-4 “Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving,”

- ❖ As we are influenced by the culture, broken by the sin of our flesh, and affected by the lies of the enemy, we struggle to be thankful.

📖 Luke 17:11-19

📖 Psalm 106:6-13

Genesis 3:4-6 “But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.”

Why does God call us to be thankful?

Psalm 92:1-2 “It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; ²to declare Your steadfast love in the morning, and Your faithfulness by night.”

- ❖ It is good for us!

👉 *Psalm 92:4 “For You, O Lord, have made me glad by Your work; at the works of Your hands I sing for joy.”*

👉 *Proverbs 10:22 “The blessing of the Lord makes rich, and He adds no sorrow with it.”*

- ❖ It is our form of worship!

👉 *Hebrews 13:15 “Through Him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge His name.”*

- ❖ It reveals our reliance on God!

👉 *James 1:17-18 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.”*

Endnotes:

Unless otherwise noted, all scriptures are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

ⁱ McKnight, C. (2016). [Thanksgiving](#). In J. D. Barry, D. Bomar, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, D. Mangum, C. Sinclair Wolcott, L. Wentz, E. Ritzema, & W. Widder (Eds.), *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*. Lexham Press.

ⁱⁱ McKnight, C. (2016). [Thanksgiving](#). In J. D. Barry, D. Bomar, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, D. Mangum, C. Sinclair Wolcott, L. Wentz, E. Ritzema, & W. Widder (Eds.), *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*. Lexham Press.



You can give your regular tithes and offerings by placing them in the offering boxes at the back of the sanctuary, in the fellowship hall, scanning the QR code, or going to wpcc4Him.org to give online.