

Cultivating a Thankful Heart in a Thankless World

I. The *Crisis* of Unthankfulness

A. A *Sign* of Peril for Israel

“When you have eaten and **are satisfied**, you shall **ble**s**s** the LORD your God for the **good land He has given** to you.

Beware that you **do not forget** the LORD your God by **not keeping His commandments and His ordinances...**

otherwise, when you have **eaten** and are *satisfied*, and have built **good houses...**and when your **flocks** and **herds multiply**, and your **silver** and **gold multiply**, and **all** that you have *multiplies*, then **your heart** will become **proud** and you will **forget** the LORD your God who **brought you up** out of the land of **Egypt**, out of the house of *slavery.*”

All that **generation** (of **Israel**) also were **gathered** to their fathers; and there arose **another generation** after them who did **not know** the LORD, nor yet **the work He had done** for **Israel**.

Then the sons of **Israel did evil** in the **sight** of the LORD... and they **forsook** the **God of their fathers**,...
(Deuteronomy 8:10-14; Judges 2:10-12a)

B. A *Sign* of a Decadent Society

For the **wrath** of **God** is revealed from heaven against **all ungodliness** and **unrighteousness** of men who **suppress the truth** in **unrighteousness**,...

For even though they **knew God**, they did **not honor Him** or **give thanks**, but they became **futile** in their **speculations**, and their foolish heart **was darkened**...

And just as they did **not** see fit to **acknowledge God** any longer, **God gave them over** to a **depraved mind**, to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all **unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil**; full of **envy, strife, deceit, malice...slanderers, haters of God**,...
(Romans 1:18, 21, 28-30a)

C. A *Sign* of Corruption in the “Last Days”

This know also, that in the **last days perilous times** shall come.

For **men** shall be **lovers** of their own **elves**, **covetousness**, **boasters**, **proud**,
blasphemers, **disobedient** to parents, **unthankful**, **unholy**,...
(II Timothy 3:1-2)

II. The *Cultivation* of a **Thankful Heart**

A. Being *Thankful* to **God our Creator** for **His Greatness**, **His Sovereignty**, and **His Power**

So **(King) David** *blessed* the **LORD** in the sight of all the assembly;
and **David** said, "**Blessed** are **You**,
O LORD God of Israel our **father**, forever and ever.

Yours, O LORD, is the **greatness** and the **power** and the **glory**
and the **victory** and the **majesty**, indeed everything that is in the
heavens and the **earth**; **Yours** is the **dominion**, **O LORD**,
and **You exalt Yourself** as **head over all**.

Both **riches** and **honor** *come* from **You**, and **You rule over all**,
and in **Your hand** is **power and might**; and it lies
in **Your hand** to **make great** and to **strengthen** everyone.

Now therefore, **our God**, we **thank you** and **praise Your glorious name**.
(I Chronicles 29:10-13)

O come, let us **sing** for **joy** to the **LORD**,
Let us shout **joyfully** to the **rock** of our **salvation**.
Let us come before **His presence** with **thanksgiving**,
Let us shout **joyfully** to **Him** with **psalms**.

For the **LORD** is a **great God** and a **great King** above **all gods**,
In whose hand are the **depths** of the **earth**,
The **peaks** of the **mountains** are **His** also.
The **sea** is **His**, for it was **He** who **made it**,
And **His hands** **formed** the **dry land**.

Come, let us **worship** and **bow down**,
Let us **kneel** before the **LORD our Maker**.
For **He** is **our God**, and **we** are the **people** of **His pasture**
and the **sheep** of **His hand**. (Psalm 95:1-7a)

B. Being *Thankful* to **God—remembering His mighty Deeds** and **Wonders**

O give **thanks** to the **LORD**, call upon **His name**;
make known **His deeds** among the **peoples**.
Sing to **Him**, sing **praises** to **Him**; speak of all **His wonders**...
Remember His wonders which **He** has done, **His marvels**
and the **judgments** uttered by **His mouth**,... (Psalm 105:1-2, 5)

Praise the LORD! Oh give **thanks** to the **LORD**, for **He is good**;
For His **lovingkindness** is everlasting.

Who can speak of the **mighty deeds** of the **LORD**,
Or can show forth all **His praise**? (Psalm 106:1-2)

C. Being *Thankful* for **His Salvation**, and the times **God** has
delivered/saved us from **difficulty** and **trials**

Willingly I will **sacrifice** to **You**
I will **give thanks** to **Your name, O LORD**, for it is **good**.
For **He** has **delivered me** from **all trouble**,
and my eye has looked *with satisfaction* upon my **enemies**.
(Psalm 54:6-7)

But I am **afflicted** and **in pain**;
may **Your salvation O God** set me **securely** on **high**.
I will **praise** the **name of God** with **song**
and **magnify Him** with **thanksgiving**. (Psalm 69:29-30)

For this reason also,..we have not ceased to **pray** for **you**...

giving thanks to the **Father**, who has **qualified us**
to **share** in the **inheritance** of the **saints in Light**.

For **He rescued us** from the **domain of darkness**,
and **transferred us** to the **kingdom of His beloved Son**,
in whom we have **redemption**, the **forgiveness of sins**.
(Colossians 1:12-14)

D. Being *Thankful* for **God's Goodness, Lovingkindness**, and
Faithfulness

Enter into **His gates** with **thanksgiving**
and His courts with **praise**.

Give thanks to **Him**, **bless His name**,
For the **LORD is good**; His **lovingkindness** is **everlasting**
and His **faithfulness** to **all generations**.
(Psalm 100:4-5)

It is **good** to **give thanks** to the **LORD**
And to sing **praises** to **Your name, O Most High**;
To declare **Your lovingkindness** in the **morning**
And **Your faithfulness** by **night**, (Psalm 92:1-2)

Praise the LORD!

Oh **give thanks** to the **LORD**, for **He is good**;
for His **lovingkindness** is **everlasting**. (Psalm 106:1)

O LORD, You are my God;
I will exalt You, I will **give thanks** to Your name;
For You have worked wonders,
Plans **formed long ago**, with perfect **faithfulness**. (Isaiah 25:1)

E. Being **Thankful to God** for the many **Blessings we have in Messiah**

But we should always **give thanks to God** for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has **chosen you** from the beginning for **salvation** through **sanctification** by the **Spirit** and **faith** in the **truth**.

It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may **gain the glory** of our Lord Jesus the Messiah.
(II Thessalonians 2:13-14)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Messiah, who has **blessed us** with **every spiritual blessing** in the **heavenly places in Messiah**, (Ephesians 1:3)

F. Being **Thankful to God** for the **People of God**, whom He has sent to **Serve** and **Encourage** the **Body of Believers**

I **thank my God** in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, in view of your **participation** in the **gospel** from the **first day** until now.
(Philippians 1:3-5)

We **give thanks to God** always for **all of you**, making mention of you in our prayers; constantly bearing in mind your **work of faith** and **labor of love** and **steadfastness of hope** in our Lord Jesus the Messiah in the presence of our God and Father,..

You also became **imitators of us** and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an **example** to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. (I Thessalonians 1:2-3, 6-7)

I **thank my God** always, making mention of you (Philemon) in my prayers, because I hear of your **love** and of the **faith** which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward **all the saints**..

For I have come to have much joy and comfort in your love, because the hearts of the **saints** have been **refreshed through you**, brother.
(Philemon 4-5, 7)

Closing Thoughts