

Thanksgiving – A Grateful Heart

- I. Thanksgiving means to gratefully acknowledge benefits and favors – especially if we are using the word with relationship to our Heavenly Father. There are a number of Scripture passages dealing with this subject: [Col.4:2](#); [I Tim.4:3, 4](#); [2 Cor. 9:15](#); [Rev. 7:12](#); [Lev. 7:12-15](#); [Psa.50:14](#); [Psa. 95:2](#); [Psa. 100:3-5](#); and [Psa. 147:7](#)
- II. Thanksgiving is not a once a year occasion. Thanksgiving should be a daily experience; it is the daily expression of our gratitude to God. It is not physical food, but spiritual food that every Christian needs. Therefore, when a person has grown in grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ he will have a capacity for gratitude. A person who knows God’s love, mercy, grace, and compassion will have an overflowing attitude of gratitude ([I Chron. 16:7-36](#)).
- III. Thanksgiving, then, should be a normal daily activity for the born-again believer. [Eph. 5:20](#) – *“Be always thankful for all things in the sphere of our Lord Jesus Christ, even to the Father.”* [I Thess. 5:18](#) – *“In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus.”*
- IV. For a Christian to be truly thankful, he must not only know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, but have an expanding knowledge of God’s Word – the Bible ([Psa. 100:3-5](#)).
- V. In both the Old and New Testaments there is an emphasis upon the sacrifice of thanksgiving. This worship depends upon a relationship with God in knowledge. [Amos 4:5](#) – *“Offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving with leaven.”* [Psa. 116:17](#) – *“I will offer to Thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving.”* [Psa.107:22](#) – *“Let them also offer the sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of His words with happy singing.”*

Thanksgiving – A Grateful Heart (Continued)

Thanksgiving is dependent upon the stability of the Believer. [Col. 3:15](#) – *“and let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which indeed ye are called in one body; and be thankful.”* The word “thankful” here is the present active imperative of *eucharistos* (εὐχαρίστος), which is a command to *keep on being thankful*—something which you were not before. [2 Cor. 4:15](#) – *“For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many abound to the glory of God.”* Daniel said in [Dan. 2:23](#) – *“I thank Thee, and praise Thee, O thou God of my fathers, who has given me wisdom and might.”* Jesus, standing at the tomb of Lazarus just before he called Lazarus forth, prayed and said, *“Father, I thank You that You have heard me.”* Paul said in [Rom. 1:8](#) – *“I thank my God through Jesus Christ.”* In [Phil.1:3](#), *“I thank my God.”* In [1 Cor.1:4](#) – *“I thank my God always.”* In [2 Tim 1:3](#) – *“I thank God whom I serve from my forefathers with a clean conscience, as unceasingly I have remembrance of you in my prayers night and day.”* [Col. 2:7](#) – *“...having been rooted and having been built up in Him and being confirmed in the faith as ye were taught, abounding in THANKSGIVING.”* (After being taught a person overflows with gratitude.)