

Spc166 – Living In Thanksgiving – Psalm 100:1-5

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When I say Living In Thanksgiving

I'm talking about Living a LIFE  
of Constant Thanksgiving to God

Which the Bible Clearly CALLS ALL Christ-Followers to

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But - In the last couple years, I've lost a good part  
of my Living In Thanksgiving to God

*Has that ever happened to you?*

As I've kinda Drifted away from  
Living in a Constant state of Thanksgiving to God

It has REALLY, Effected me  
& it has REALLY, Effected the people around me

It's NOT some BIG SIN (as we define them) that has caused  
my DRIFT Away - from LIVING IN THANKSGIVING

For me - the ROBBER of my LIVING IN THANKSGIVING

seems to be Long-Term STRESS – WORKAHOLISM  
& Unmet EXPECTATIONS  
that I've put on myself, & on God

& the reason for my DRIFT away  
from LIVING in THANKSGIVING

MIGHT be similar to yours -  
or yours might be completely different

Either way - the FIRST Question we HAVE to ASK today - is

Is there something in my life today  
that is KEEPING me from Living In Thanksgiving

Because This "Lifestyle" – is CRITICALLY IMPORTANT

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As Believers, we are CALLED to Live In Thanksgiving

But even those outside the Bible Believing Community

Readily KNOW – the Transforming Benefit  
of Living In Thanksgiving

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& So - #1 Today – I'd like us to Honestly SEE

what it LOOKS LIKE - when we are NOT  
LIVING IN THANKSGIVING

THEN – (#2) – I'd like us to SEE

what it LOOKS LIKE  
when we ARE - LIVING IN THANKSGIVING

& **Finally** – (#3) - we **need** to **SEE**  
**How** to **Begin** the **JOURNEY** - to **GO**

**From: NOT LIVING IN THANKSGIVING**

**To: LIVING IN Constant THANKSGIVING to God**

Have I Said “**Living In Thanksgiving**” enough?

**Let's Pray**

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Alright –we **HAVE** to **START** – with What it **LOOKS LIKE**  
**When** we are **NOT** - **LIVING IN THANKSGIVING**

& to do that - **FIRST** – we **HAVE** to **Accept the truth** of

**Matthew 12:34–35 (ESV)**

***34 . . . For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.  
35 The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good,  
and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.***

No – **Don't** get all **DEFENSIVE** at **that vs**

You'll just be **PROVING** that **what** I'm saying is **right**

***34 . . . out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks***

**Matthew 15:18 says the same thing (ESV)**

***18 . . . what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and  
this defiles a person.***

We **DON'T LIKE IT** – we try to **DENY IT**  
We **DEFEND** & **JUSTIFY** & **RATIONALIZE IT**

But – the **TRUTH IS**

What **comes** out of our **MOUTH**  
is - at the **very LEAST** – a **SIGN** of **WHAT** is in our **HEART**

**When** I say – **it's a SIGN** – I **mean**

**I know** that **when** you're **ANGRY**  
you **say things** you **DON'T MEAN**

But it **DOES MEAN** - that you're **ANGRY**, **right?**

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& I think – the **First Sign** of a **Christian** **SLIPPING AWAY**  
**From** a **THANKFUL HEART**

Is **WHEN** we **begin** to hear

**NEGATIVE, CRITICAL, & JUDGMENTAL WORDS**  
coming **out** of our **mouths**

An **UNGRATEFUL, UNAPPRECIATIVE Attitude**  
Toward **God** & **Others**

Is usually - the **Dangerous Beginning** of us  
**NO LONGER** - **Living In Thanksgiving**

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## **Proverbs 15:15 (NLT)**

***15 For the despondent, every day brings trouble; for the happy heart, life is a continual feast.***

We have to **Honestly SEE where we** are AT on that **Scale**

& we **have to KNOW** that

**Learning to Live in Continual Thanksgiving to God**

### **Will - MOVE US**

**From the DESPONDENT** - Side of that Vs

**To the HAPPY HEART** - Side of that Vs.

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**STEP #1** – is to **Honestly SEE** where **you're AT**

**So** you **can begin** to let God **HEAL YOU**

**Because** – If you **DON'T** – You will **Risk Falling** into

**One of the Greatest Dangers WARNED AGAINST** in the Bible

Which is . . . **BITTERNESS**

**Bitterness**, is a **POISON**

**BUT** – it's **not a Poison** that **WE DRINK**

It's a **POISON** - **WE MANUFACTURE** in our **own heart**

& **then** it **POISONS** the **People** around us

## **Hebrews 12:15 (NLT)**

***15 . . . Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.***

**Bitterness GROWS UP in our own heart**

& it can **create GENERATIONS** of **Trouble** – as it **passes**  
from a **GRANDPARENT**, to a **PARENT**, to the **KIDS**

**Bitterness** is a **PLAGUE**

that will **MAKE EVERYONE** around you – **SICK**

**That's why Ephesians 4:31 (NLT)**

***31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander .***

***. .***

**ALL those sins come from a Heart – POISONED by Bitterness**

& I **PROMISE** You – **LEARNING to Live**

In a **Constant State** of **Thanksgiving to God**

**IS THE REMEDY** for the **Poison of Bitterness**

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So - **That's** what

**NOT Living in Thanksgiving - LOOKS LIKE**

So **NOW** Let's **See**

What **Living in Thanksgiving - DOES LOOK LIKE**

**As Always** – The **Word of God** Says it **BEST**

In just **FIVE VS'S**

**Psalm 100** Makes it **Perfectly CLEAR**

what **Living in Thanksgiving** – **LOOKS LIKE!**

**Psalm 100 (NLT)**

***1 Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth!***

***2 Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy.***

***3 Acknowledge that the Lord is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.***

***4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name.***

***5 For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.***

**As you RECOVER**

from an **UNTHANKFUL** – or **BITTER** heart –

**THIS Psalm** should **be**

your **Daily Scripture Meditation** for a **MONTH**

**Every Day** – **Dig into it** – **More** & **More** & **More**

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**Have** you **ever MET** a **Christ-Follower**

**Who** Truly **HAS** - **Thanksgiving to God**

just **POURING** out of their **life**?

When you DO meet them  
it Often IMPACTS you – for Life

I was WITH one of these  
ALWAYS-THANKFUL Christ-Followers – this week

This church, and many of us individually,  
lost a very dear friend this week in an accident

& I was asked share that Tragic News  
with his mother & his brother

with most of the family gathered around for support

& when I shared it  
This Mom went into emotional shock for sure

but all that could come out of her lips  
was THANKSGIVING TO GOD

Thanksgiving for how GOOD God is  
For how much GOD Loved her son, & her entire family

& Thanksgiving for how grateful she was,  
that her son was in the actual, very real, presence of Jesus

& her response of Thanksgiving to God  
in the face of that TRAGIC NEWS

PUT ME into Emotional Shock

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Guys - **IT IS** what we **KNOW**

To Be **ABSOLUTELY TRUE** About God

that **ENABLES** us to **Live in Thanksgiving** to God

**When** a **persons Knows**, that **they Know**, that **they Know**,  
**HOW GOOD** God is

& **When** they **KNOW** - **ALL** that **GOD HAS DONE** for them

it **SHOWS in Thanksgiving** – **NO MATTER** what **they** are **facing**

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**That person**

has **PEACE** that **passes understanding** (Phil 4:7)

**That person** lies down in **REST** at **night**,

**because** they **know** the **Lord** is with **them** (Psalm 4:8)

**That person** has **Exceeding JOY** Down **Deep in their Soul**

as **over 50 vs's** in **Psalms & Proverbs** say

**That person** has **CONFIDENCE** that **God** is

**Leading & Guiding them** for **HIS Name's** sake (Psa 31:3)

& **That person** is **CONTENT**

in **whatever situation** they are in (Phil 4:11)

<b><u>THIS</u></b> is what <b><u>Living in Thanksgiving</u></b> <b><u>LOOKS LIKE</u></b>
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It looks like

PEACE – REST – INNER JOY

CONFIDENCE - & CONTENTMENT

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AND . . . There's More

Living In Thanksgiving is also the KEY

To HONORING God

To WORSHIPING God - &

To SERVING God . . . In ALL that we do

**THAT is what Living in Thanksgiving - LOOKS LIKE**

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(1) - So – We've seen what

NOT Living in Thanksgiving – LOOKS LIKE

(2) - & We've seen what

Living in Thanksgiving – DOES LOOK LIKE

(3) - NOW - we need to see – HOW do we begin the Journey

From: NOT LIVING IN THANKSGIVING

To: LIVING IN THANKSGIVING to God

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& the **FIRST THING** we **NEED** to **SEE**  
Is that **LIVING IN THANKSGIVING**

Is our **EXPRESSION** of **CONSTANT GRATITUDE**

for **ALL** that **GOD HAS DONE** for us  
& **for** His **CONSTANT CARE & CONCERN** for us

And it is **ESPECIALLY**  
our **Constant EXPRESSION** of **Gratitude**

for God **SAVING US**  
& **making a place** for us to **live** with **him** for **ETERNITY**

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**We Live In Constant Thanksgiving**

**Because** of **WHO God IS** To **Us**  
& **WHAT God Has DONE** For **Us**

**PSALM 100** – in v.3 says **The Lord made us, and we belong to him.**  
**We are his people, & the sheep of his pasture**

& v.5 - **the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever**  
(toward us), **and his faithfulness continues to each generation**

**IF WE BELONG** to **God** today – **THRU** our **Faith** in **Jesus Christ**

Then **THESE Truths** about **God** – Are **TRUE in our Lives**

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The **BIBLE** is **FULL** – of **REASON** - & **DIRECTION**  
**For us** to be **Living In Thanksgiving**

**1 Chronicles 16:8 (NLT)**

***8 Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim his greatness. [because of] . . . what he has done (for us).***

**1 Chronicles 16:34 (NLT)**

***34 Give thanks to the Lord, [because] he is good! [and because] His faithful love endures forever (to us).***

**Psalm 68:19 (NLT)**

***19 . . . praise God our savior! [Because] each day he carries us in his arms.***

**IF YOU** have **Made** the **Lord Of Heaven** Your **SAVIOR**  
then **EACH DAY** - he is **carrying you** in his **arms**

& **You** can **THANK HIM for that** – **Every Day**

**Psalm 116:12–13 (NLT)**

***12 What can I offer the Lord for all he has done for me?***

***13 I will lift up the cup of salvation and praise the Lord's name for saving me.***

Listen – **The Moment** you **step** into **Eternity**  
& **realize ALL** that **Salvation** means to **you**

**You** are **going** to **Praise the Lord's Name**  
**in Thanksgiving** - (Literally) - **FOREVER**

**& listen carefully to Hebrews 12:28 (NLT)**

***28 Since (because) we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping him with holy fear and awe.***

**BECAUSE we have Been ADOPTED into the Kingdom of God**

**We Should be Living In Thanksgiving - and pleasing God  
by worshiping him with holy fear and awe**

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**Ok – Listen - Really Getting a HOLD  
Of a DOZEN SCRIPTURES like these**

Is the BEGINNING of the Journey - to Living In Thanksgiving

**AND – I just added a page  
on THANKSGIVING Scriptures**

to the “Scripture By Topic” Resource on CCN & WBM

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Again - The Final Question Is:

***How do I begin the road to Living in Thanksgiving?***

**THE ANSWER IS:**

***Be Consumed MORE - by what God has Done FOR YOU  
than what this World is Doing TO YOU***

I think sometimes - we aren't LIVING IN THANKSGIVING

Because we really don't have  
a Life-Transforming GRASP

on What God - HAS DONE for Us  
& What God IS DOING For Us Today

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So – here is my challenge to ALL of us today

ASK GOD – Really Ask God – IS there something in my life  
that is KEEPING me from Living In Thanksgiving

Is it that you don't know  
HOW GOOD God is to you ?  
OR WHAT he's Done for you ?

OR – is it that you more CONSUMED

with the Short Term Trials of this World  
than you are with the Eternal Promises of God?

Or – is it Simply that you've Never Experienced

the True Goodness of God  
thru a Real Relationship with Jesus Christ

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**Ask God WHAT is KEEPING you**  
From **Living In Thanksgiving**

& **then** – **SET OUT** on a **DETERMINED JOURNEY**  
of **BEING HEALED** – **from Living** that **UNTHANKFUL Life**

**& your Healing will COME from**  
**The POWER** of **God's WORD**  
**RECEIVED** in the **POWER** of **God's PRESENCE**

**Learn** to **Get Alone with God**  
& **focus** on **being transformed** in this **specific area**

(**GET** our **Alone With God Series**)

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**Romans 12:2** says  
***Let God Transform you by Renewing your Mind***

& **THAT is DONE**  
**Thru** the **Living & Powerful** - **WORD of God**

**APPLIED** to **your LIFE**  
**in** the **Living & Powerful** - **PRESENCE of God**

& (again) you **can learn how** to do **that**  
in our **Alone with God Series**

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**If you Recognize**

**That you are NOT Living In Thanksgiving**

Then **SET-OUT on a Mission**

To **BE TRANSFORMED**

**Into a Life – of LIVING IN CONSTANT THANKSGIVING to God**

& - **if you ASK US** – We will **HELP YOU**

**Remember - 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NLT)**

***18 Be thankful in all circumstances (be Living In Thanksgiving), for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.***

**Let's Pray**