

# Thanksgiving

**Nehemiah 12** NLT I believe that as the church we have been in a season that very much parallels the time and challenges that Nehemiah walked through. Especially when you think about the social, moral, and political battlegrounds we are facing (**one might say we are in-between**) But there is much to learn and apply in these chapters that gives us a glimpse into victorious strategies.

- **Nehemiah 12:27 and 40** The priests, Levites, and all the people were dedicating the wall, (**the progress they had made**) all the gaps were closed but still so much to do!!
- Still slaves, still surrounded by enemies, still struggling financially, still so much rubble in the streets.
- But even so they let songs of thanksgiving fill the streets and every heart as they dedicated the wall and gave thanks.
- In this season, I have to ask myself, is there more or less worship and thanksgiving in my life than when I was first saved?

**Colossians 2:6-7** NLT And now, **just as you accepted** Christ Jesus as your Lord, **you must continue** (listen to the imperative call in Paul's voice) to follow him. <sup>7</sup> Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. (a proactive decision) Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, **and you will overflow with thankfulness.**

- I was so grateful to not be going to hell anymore
- Who can commit to memorize this verse and share it next Sunday? God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
- You could do a bible study on this verse.

In the beginning of Thessalonians, Colossians, Romans, and Philippians and others Paul always walked in the **ministry of thanksgiving..**

Such as:

**Romans 1:8-9** NLT

**2 Thessalonians 1:3-4** NLT Dear brothers and sisters, we can't help but thank God for you, because your faith is flourishing and your love for one another is growing.

- I can't help but to thank God for my wife....

**Colossians 1:3-4** NLT We always pray for you, and **we give thanks to God**, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God's people.

- Do we often tell people, "I thank God for you?"

**Philippians 1:3-6** NLT Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. **And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.**

Paul always mingled his prayer with Thanksgiving, not because all these people had arrived **but because he could see them there by faith.**

- Do you walk in **this ministry of Thanksgiving** every day?
- Thanksgiving is **founded in faith** and not just in gratefulness for things you have.

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- Hebrews tells us “Now faith is the **assurance** of things hoped for the **evidence** of things not seen”... **begin thanking God for what you cannot yet see and it will change the attitude and altitude of your heart!**

## By faith and thanksgiving, we declare!

- Lord I thank you that my husband is a mighty man of God who loves you with all of his heart, he loves me like Jesus loved the church who died and gave himself up for her, he serves in the church and inspires people all around him. Thank you for my man of God!!
- Thanksgiving is an expression of faith for things you know that God has spoken in His word.
  - God I thank you for perfect (mature) love that cast out..
  - God I thank you that we have now received your Spirit that we may know the things freely given to us.
  - God I thank you for pouring your Spirit into this earthen vessel.
  - Thank you that you have gone to heaven to prepare a place for me!!
  - Who can stand up and give thanks for something in God’s word right now?

**Thanksgiving is a spiritual weapon that removes power from the devil by taking away what he relies on to keep us bound. (Grumbling, complaining, being offended, worry, ungratefulness, being self-absorbed, discontent, and focusing on what we don’t have)**

- Thanksgiving focuses on God’s ability, not your inability or circumstance.
- Thanksgiving believes beyond what it can see with natural eyes because some things you can only see through the eyes of faith and Thankful heart.
  - **We need to stop asking the Lord “why” and start asking Him “what” do you want me to learn through this!!**

**Philippians 4:6-7** NKJ Be anxious for nothing, **but in everything** by prayer and supplication (humble earnest prayer,) with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup> **and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (a promise to you) (memorize this)**

- These are three powerful steps that help us overcome anxiety in a crazy world...

**Romans 1:8-9** NLT Let me say first that **I thank my God** through Jesus Christ for **all of you (good and bad)**, because your faith in him is being talked about all over the world. God knows how often I pray for you. Day and night I bring you and your needs in prayer to God, whom **I serve with all my heart by spreading the Good News** about his Son.

- Are you thanking God for people around you every day?
- Thanksgiving is a creative prayer of faith not just an attitude of the heart
- Let’s pray and thank God for DCC declaring that people all over the world will be talking about the faith of our people and take their place as a part of this family.
- **I would ask you to commit to the spiritual development of people God has put in your life. Pressing in and not just hanging out. Even end your hangouts in prayer like this one...**

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**Ephesians 1:15-18** NLT Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God's people everywhere, **I have not stopped thanking God for you.** I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.

**Psalms 95:1-3** NLT Come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. <sup>2</sup> Let us come to him with thanksgiving. Let us sing psalms of praise to him. <sup>3</sup> For the LORD is a great God, a great King above all gods.

**1 Timothy 2:1-6** NLT I urge you, **first of all**, to pray for all people. **Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them.** Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. For, there is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone. **This is the message God gave to the world at just the right time.**

- I thank you Father for Jesus your Son, “He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone” and then He brought me home.