

TRUE VIRTUE—4 GRATITUDE

09:55 am **5 Min. Count Down - VIDEO**

10:00 am ****LIVE Worship –**

10:25 am ****LIVE In House Welcome –**

WELCOME to The Peak CC

Welcome our Church Online Platform –

We are so glad you could join us as we worship the Lord & expound on His Word.

If this is your 1st time or perhaps you've been with us before but haven't engaged... Please fill out

***Online Connect Card * -> RightNow Media**

10:30 AM ****Announcements Video - Tithing**

10:32am LIVE SHOT – Welcome - Pastor Self Intro -

Sunday School: 1st things 1st 9am Sundays 2nd floor.

Worship Night: Friday 12/16 doors open 6:30



- Introduction:

Have you ever noticed that Oftentimes in life, when something becomes repetitive, it loses its value.

Sneeze — God Bless you.

How's everything going? — Fine, everythings fine.

Thank you — Coming out of Thanksgiving — how many of us are truly GRATEFULL??

To be Grateful is so much more than being ThankFul...

As we close our little Sermon Series on “True Virtues” Having discussed Honor, Integrity, & Perseverance. **App Plug**

Gratitude (title) the quality of being thankful; *readiness* to **show appreciation** for and to **return kindness**.

Gratitude is a state of being that expresses itself in ACTION.

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (NKJV):

Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 **in everything** give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Give Thanks in **ALL circumstances**

Thankfulness & gratitude should be a way of life for us believers... Cause otherwise... ***WHAT are we believing in??***

Think about what's been forgiven... Where do you carry guilt? We can ALL have a “Dirty little secret” we’re struggling with from time to time.

What character flaws may be lurking in your closet?

Psalm 136:1 says, NKJV

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His Mercy (*Love*) endures forever.”

Here we have two reasons to be thankful: God's constant goodness and His steadfast love.

When we recognize the nature of our depravity and understand that, apart from God, there is only death, our natural response is to be grateful for the life He gives.

- **Gratitude is the door to God's presence.** (1st point)

Psalm 100:4 NKJV

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

WHY??

V.5 For the LORD is good;

His *mercy is everlasting,*

And *His truth* endures to all generations

We should be able to join joyfully in His *public worship*. Be able to raise our Hands for What He has done & given...

I hear people say how they wish they could hear God more clearly, FEEL His presence more powerfully... *Perhaps the reason He seems so distant is because you have yet to enter His Gates..*

You try to approach Him with your requests...

when you ought to 1st Thank Him for the ability to Approach Him at ALL... *Thank you Lord for JESUS Who allows me to enter into Your Courts*

TODAY wasn't promised to any man... Did you wake up this morning? Hallelujah .. another opportunity to LIVE, LOVE, SERVE.

Always start your day with prayers of thanksgiving.

Beat in my chest, sight in my eyes, *Sound mind*... Family & friends..

- **Gratitude brings freedom.** (2nd point)

Gratitude brings you into the *Presence of the LORD*..

& where the Spirit of the Lord there is FREEDOM

Emotional, spiritual, relational, Even Physical

Jonah summary - Goto Ninivah – didn't like the assignment – bounced – *booked the other way*... “Boat Trip” - storm hit – discovered he was @ fault – He gotta GO!! – Overboard he went to then.... Be encountered by a BIG fish. Gotta admit... its a whale of a tale... 3 Days in the belly of the beast... This has happened before... not the 1st or last time a man survives being swallowed by a whale. 56-year-old Luigi Marquez just saying.

Now in the darkness and solitude I'm sure... can't be comfortable.... 1 hour.. 2 hours. 6 hours, 12... how much contemplating?? 24..... 36... *funny how perspective begins to change in the solitude of your own mind...*

Jonah 2:9-10 NKJV

“But I will sacrifice to You with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.”

So the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

Gratitude brings us to a place of FREEDOM.... *even a freedom from ourselves. Gratitude brings DELIVERANCE (freedom from our own thinking, & schemes)*

- **Gratitude is a daily choice.** (3rd point)

Paul & Silas summary (*While being OBEDIENT, beaten w rods, put in the inner prison, feet fastened in the stocks*). ***How many listening to this can honestly say they would be somewhat grumpy right about now??***

Acts 16:25-26 NKJV

But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was

a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.

You can never fully control your circumstances, but you can always fully control your attitude.

An attitude of gratitude will affect not only you but all those around (family, friends) Contagious ... CATALYST



- Sceptic System Failure: *Around this time last year Eunice & I came down with COVID and.... We also had our sceptic system fail... city folk..... over \$20K Cant shower regularly periodic flushes ONLY..... porta potty in the house.... stinky.... TERRIBLE!!*

Looked for \$\$.. personal loan / equity loan / Credit /

NOTHING MADE SENSE

Rule of thumb: When you don't know what to do... It's BEST to do nothing and wait on the Lord!

& wait we did... 1 month, ...2 months, ... 3 months... Are You there God?... 4 months...

But you know what... I began to get Blessed - TYJ... I was able to see the resiliency of my family - TYJ... we found ways around it... developed routines - TYJ ... pumped the tank monthly... (*special rate*) - TYJ... NO ONE in the family murmured, complained or made it harder!! TYJ!!

almost 6-7 months later... GOD CAME THROUGH!! - Mike Panny - Panny & Son in Mahopac . TY too...



Having an Attitude of Gratitude is what got us through!! NO MORE STINKY!!!



- **Choosing gratitude means letting go of something else.** (lastly)

Gratitude and grudges cannot coexist.

We make a choice on what we meditate on... & what we let go.

What we forgive..... & what we resent.

Gratitude & *offenses, resentments, bitterness, & resentments*
CANNOT co-exist. *One always takes over the other*

Some of you are resentful towards God Himself and have yet to approach Him about it... & you have no idea why you can't find JOY again..

‘No answer of prayer’. *God will always answer your prayers.* It’s just that sometimes the answer is ‘no’. *Yes - Yes but later - No.*

When God says ‘no’, it’s always because he has something even better in store.

We are all here because Jesus got a ‘no’ in Gethsemane.

God’s “NO” is never a bad thing... it may be a little disappointing... BUT,... He always has something GOODER.

Can I encourage you this morning to let go of any grudges (*Especially if they are held against your Pastor*), disappointments, unrealized expectations? Let them Go, and look forward to see what God might be “setting you up for”.

As we reflect on what we need to let go of... in order to lay hold of something GREATER...

Let's take a moment to contemplate the GREATEST FREEDOM that we've been given..

C o m m u n i o n

Hebrews 9:11-15 NLT

11 So Christ has now become the High Priest over all the good things that have come. He has entered that greater, more perfect Tabernacle in heaven, which was not made by human hands and is not part of this created world. 12 With his own blood—not the blood of goats and calves—he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever.

13 Under the old system, the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer could cleanse people's bodies from ceremonial impurity. 14 Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins. 15 That is why he is the one who mediates a new covenant between God and people, so that all who are called can receive the eternal inheritance God has promised them. For Christ died to set them free from the penalty of the sins they had committed under that first covenant.

This morning... What area do you need deliverance in? What hurt or offense do you need to let go? What SIN has you yoked up?

I want to encourage you this morning as I have received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had

given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.

- Final prayer