

A Thankful Heart

11-5-2023

Icebreaker

What is your favorite gift you have ever received? —OR—

What does it feel like when you give the perfect gift? —OR—

How do you feel when someone genuinely thanks you?

Step 1 - GET REAL

What are you thankful for from the past week?

What struggles did you face?

What can you share from your personal Bible reading? (other than the designated reading)

Where did you see God in your daily life?

Step 2: GET FED

Scripture

Colossians 3:12-17 (ESV) ¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. **And be thankful.** ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **with thankfulness in your hearts to God.** ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, **giving thanks to God the Father** through him.

Luke 2:36-38 (ESV) ³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ And coming up at that very hour **she began to give thanks to God** and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Luke 17:11-19 (ESV) ¹¹ On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance ¹³ and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." ¹⁴ When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. ¹⁵ Then **one of them**, when he saw that he was healed, **turned back, praising God with a loud voice;** ¹⁶ and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, **giving him thanks.** Now he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? ¹⁸ **Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?**" ¹⁹ And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

Romans 1:21 (ESV) ²¹ For although they knew God, **they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him**, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Romans 7:21-25 (ESV) ²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³ but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am!

Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ **Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!** So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Romans 16:3-4 (ESV) ³ Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, ⁴ who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only **I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well.**

1 Corinthians 1:4-9 (ESV) ⁴ **I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus,** ⁵ that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— ⁶ even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸ who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:56-57 (ESV) ⁵⁶ *The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.* ⁵⁷ *But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

2 Corinthians 2:14-15 (ESV) ¹⁴ *But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.* ¹⁵ *For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing,*

Philippians 4:5-7 (ESV) ⁵ *The Lord is at hand;* ⁶ *do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.* ⁷ *And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Questions

With what kinds of activities does thankfulness rank? (Col 3:12-17) Why would thankfulness be listed three times in this passage?

For what did Anna give thanks? (Luke 2:36-38) How long had she been waiting to do this? Do we recognize this a gift for which we should be thankful?

What was Jesus's attitude toward the single leper that returned to give thanks? (Luke 17:11-19) To what did Jesus relate thanks?

How important is giving thanks to God, according to Paul? (Rom 1:21)

For what was Paul thankful in Rom 7:21-25?

For what did Paul give thanks in Romans 16:3-4? Do we tend to give thanks primarily to God? Do we remember to give thanks to those who have helped us?

How often do we thank God for our victory? (1 Cor 15:56-57)

How often have you thought that God leads us in triumphal procession? (2 Cor 2:14-15) Do we realize we spread the fragrance of the knowledge of God everywhere?

In Philippians 4:6 what is to accompany our requests to God?

Step 3: GET ACTIVE

- Every day this week thank someone for a specific reason.
- Be especially mindful of being thankful as you are making requests to God this week (Php 4:6).
- Be particularly thankful to God this week for His victory over death (1 Cor 15:57) and His deliverance of us from death (Rom 7:21-25).