



WEEK 2: GROWING IN GRATITUDE

November 21, 2021

Luke 7:47-48 - Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.”⁴⁸ And he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

Nothing drives disappointment in God like expecting Him to think and act like us

Psalm 50:21b - ...you thought that I was one like yourself. But now I rebuke you and lay the charge before you.

Gift Package #1: What many THINK God promises us

Gift Package # 1	Gift Package #2
Ease Support for my ambition Punishment for my enemies Applause for my achievements Long Life	

What has God revealed in the Bible about Gift Package #1?

Philippians 4:11b-13 - I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Gift Package #2: What God has ACTUALLY offered us

1 Timothy 1:12-16 - I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service.¹³ though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief,¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.¹⁵ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.¹⁶ But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

Gift Package # 1	Gift Package #2
Ease Support for my ambition Punishment for my enemies Applause for my achievements Long Life	Strength - <u>1 Timothy 1:12</u> Service in His mission - <u>1 Timothy 1:12</u> Mercy for me - <u>1 Timothy 1:13</u> Grace - <u>1 Timothy 1:14</u> Eternal Life - <u>1 Timothy 1:16</u>

There’s a common response few people actually say: “Hey God, thanks for all that grace, mercy, and forgiveness... but I really didn’t need it.”

Luke 18:9-14 - He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt:¹⁰ “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

The great obstacle to a life of thankfulness stems from measuring ourselves against the shifting standards we create and never failing to conclude that “I’m a good person!”

Exodus 20:15 - “You shall not steal.”

Exodus 20:16 - “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

Matthew 5:21-22 - “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.”

Matthew 5:27-28 - “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

Mark 12:29-31 - Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.’³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’³¹ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

The secret to growing in gratitude is to figure out which gift package God really owes us

Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.