



THANKS (FOR) GIVING

■ Series Title: *Thanks (for) Giving*

Series Description:

Thanksgiving isn't just a feeling — it's a faithful response to the God who gives. When we learn to thank Him for what He's given, our lives, our relationships, and our understanding of God are transformed.

WEEK 4 — “A Life of Thanksgiving”

Theme: Thanksgiving isn't a holiday — it's a way of life.

Key Texts: *Colossians 3:15–17; Psalm 103:1–5*

Main Idea

Thanksgiving should mark every part of the believer's life — in word, worship, and work.

Series Recap

- **Week 1:** The Value of Gratitude
- **Week 2:** The Fruit of Gratitude
- **Week 3:** The Source of Gratitude
- **Week 4:** A Commitment to Gratitude — *A Way of Life*

1. Understanding the Power of Christ

- Colossians written to correct false teaching and remind believers who Christ is
- Jesus is the **firstborn of the new creation** — and we are made new in Him

Colossians 1:21–22 — Once far from God, now reconciled

Colossians 2:6–7 — Continue in Christ; be rooted in Him; *overflow with thankfulness*

Colossians 2:23 — Human rules can't change the heart — only Jesus does

2. Let Gratitude Rule Your Heart

Colossians 3:15

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts... And always be thankful.”

- Gratitude guards our peace
- Gratitude steadies our spirit

3. Let Gratitude Fill Your Worship

Colossians 3:16

“Let the message of Christ... fill your lives... Sing with thankful hearts.”

- Thanksgiving turns worship from duty into joy
- Gratitude fuels teaching, encouragement, and praise

4. Let Gratitude Guide Your Actions

Colossians 3:17

“Whatever you do or say... do it as a representative of Jesus, giving thanks.”

- Thanksgiving isn't just a song — it's a lifestyle
- Live every day with the awareness of God's grace

Philippians 1:3–6 — Paul gives thanks *from prison*, confident God will finish His work

Illustration / Application

- Live thankfully *after* the holiday — not just on it
- Thanksgiving is more than reacting; it's a *preemptive posture*
- Story: **John Howland** (Mayflower passenger)
 - Nearly died during the voyage
 - Later had 10 children, 88 grandchildren
 - Descendants include **FDR, George H. W. Bush, George W. Bush**
 - One spared life → generations blessed
- Pray over the 50 Thanksgiving meals

Closing Scripture

Psalm 136 — Responsive Reading

Leader: "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good."

People: "**His love endures forever.**"

(Continue through Psalm 136)