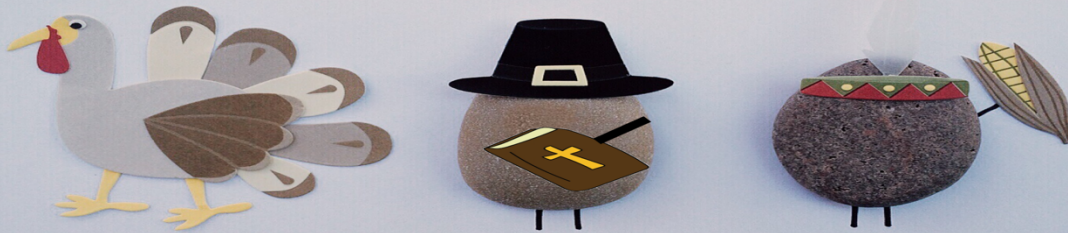


The Ins and Outs of Thanksgiving



**Psalm 100:4; Philippians 4:6;
Psalm 126:3; James 1:17; Ephesians 5:20
Luke 17:11-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:18, 24**

Introduction: What do you and I really know about _____ ?

The Old Testament - Psalm 100:4 – *Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.*

The New Testament - Philippians 4:6 – *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.*

Would you consider yourself a _____ person?

We really do have so much to be _____ for. And I believe that the most thankful people ought to be the people of God – believers in Christ (Amen).

So, I ask you again, **Are you a** _____ **person?**

The dictionary defines **Thanksgiving** this way: **the expression of** _____ , **especially to** _____ **Yes, that is from the dictionary.**

There are at least three areas in our lives where we can give God thanks. We can give God thanks for:

1. For the _____ **– Psalm 126:3**

- Psalm 126:3 – *“The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.”*

Are we thankful for all **the** _____ **things** God has done for us? Do we see the great things flowing from God’s hands into our hands?

- James 1:17 – *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and come down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.*

What are all the “good” and “perfect” gifts that God has provided for you so far this year?

Allow me to share with you **SEVEN GIFTS** that God has showered upon me so far this year.

1. **Gift 1** – Every _____ has been different.
 2. **Gift 2** – God’s _____. *He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it. (1 Thessalonians 5:24)*
 3. **Gift 3** – An _____ family.
 4. **Gift 4** – _____ here at SLBC has experienced some wonderful high points.
 5. **Gift 5** – Enjoying the beauty of God’s _____.
 6. **Gift 6** – My _____.
 7. **Gift 7** – The fellowship with the _____ of God.
- Psalm 100:4 – *Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.*

Here are some things that you might include on your Thankful list: (Take Notes here)

Jesus and the Ten Lepers

- Luke 17:11-19 - *Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” So when He saw them, He said to them, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?” And He said to him, “Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.”*

Did you notice in that text that **only** _____ **out of the** _____ lepers returned to give thanks to Jesus for healing him (v. 15-16)? Look again at verse 18. Jesus says,

“Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner.”

It was the _____ among the lepers that returned to give God thanks. It was the outcast. The one that not only was an outcast because he had a disease but was an outcast because of his ethnicity.

2. For the _____ – Ephesians 5:20

- Ephesians 5:20 – *giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Fall was yesterday, Summer is in the _____, Spring is _____ of us, and we are now entering into the _____ months – November through February. I am so glad that we live in an area where we get to experience the four seasons. Don't you just love Idaho?

Someone amply said, "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, and today is a gift... that's why it's called, **the** _____"

Can we give God thanks for the _____ I hope we can. And when I speak about the present, I am speaking about everything that would be included in our present life. So, let's start with:

- **Our** _____ – We are gathered in Church right now.
- **Our** _____ – The most important earthly relationship is the one between you and your spouse. Are you thankful for your life mate?
- **Our** _____ – How are you doing in raising your children? Do you feel blessed?
- **Our** _____ – Do you give God thanks for your Church family? We have a fantastic community of Faith.
 - Philippians 1:3 – *I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,*
- **Our** _____ – Do you have a job? Be thankful.
- **Our** _____ – How is your body doing? Are you healthy? Don't ever take your health for granted.
- **Our** _____ – Every one of us needs people in our lives. We were never meant to live isolated lives. God designed us for community.
 - Matthew 22:39 – *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

The present encompasses so much of our lives, and when we think of it that way, we really do have a lot of things to give God **THANKS** for.

3. For the _____ – 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Not everyone had a pleasant eleven months. Many have found their days filled with hurt and heartache. While I talked about giving thanks for **the _____ and the _____** (our right now moments), we also must recognize that **we have a _____**, and in that future trouble may come into our lives. No one is exempt from trouble.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:18 – *In everything gives thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

_____ is often a two-way street.

Please hear this: Trouble does not have to keep you from giving _____ to God.

Pastor Tony Evans writes, “

And Christian writer Kay Arthur penned,

Real Life Illustrations

- Romans 8:18 – *For I consider the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*
- 1 Peter 5:7 – *Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you*
- Hebrews 4:16 – *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Conclusion: What will we do with _____ we heard today? _____ it all? Or will we keep it before us and remember that we have looked at some great Biblical instruction? Thanksgiving teachings about how we are to develop a heart of gratitude and Thanksgiving.

Three key areas: The Present, the Past, and the Future.

1. **For the _____** – Will you write out at least seven things you are thankful for? And share them at your Thanksgiving table this coming Thursday.
2. **For the _____** – Will you develop a list of the “*good gift*” and the “*perfect gifts*” that God has sent your way these past eleven months? My idea here is that we might really consider all the good things God has done for us. Focus on the good. Far too many of us only see the negative.
3. **For the _____** – Will you give God thanks even for the difficult trials that will come across your path in the future? It’s not the difficulty you give thanks for, but the ONE who directs and rules over them. Give God thanks.

