

Giving Thanks

Pastor Brian R. Coles

November 21, 2021

Good morning. We are so grateful to be here today. As we prepare this week to celebrate Thanksgiving, I'd like to borrow from the season and remind us of the biblical command to every Christian to live a life of giving thanks to God.

Giving thanks is the end result of several other factors. Giving thanks is important because several things have to happen first before you can genuinely give thanks to God. Recognition, appreciation.

Open with me to Psalm 28

This psalm follows the typical lament formula

Cry for help to the one who can hear me
My complaint (safe place to talk)
A cry for justice and my innocents
Praise to the one who is capable to save

Psalm 28 (NASB)

28 To You, Lord, I call; My rock, do not be deaf to me, for if You are silent to me, I will become like those who go down to the pit. ² Hear the sound of my pleadings when I cry to You for help, When I raise my hands toward Your holy sanctuary.

³ Do not drag me away with the wicked and with those who practice injustice, who speak peace with their neighbors, while evil is in their hearts. ⁴ Give *back* to them according to their work and according to the evil of their practices; Give *back* to them according to the work of their hands; Repay them what is due them. ⁵ Because they do not regard the works of the Lord Nor the deeds of His hands, He will tear them down and not build them up.

⁶ Blessed be the Lord, Because He has heard the sound of my pleading. ⁷ The Lord is my strength and my shield; My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped; Therefore, my heart triumphs, and with my song I shall thank Him. ⁸ The Lord is their strength, And He is a refuge of salvation to His anointed. ⁹ Save Your people and bless Your inheritance; Be their shepherd also and carry them forever.

1. I am thankful for a God who is listening.

Blessed be the Lord, because He has heard the sound of my pleading.

2. I am thankful for a God who strengthens and protects.

⁷ The Lord is my strength and my shield;

Strength to our physical bodies, our emotions, efforts

My wife and children are constantly asking dad to borrow his strength.

Ask the mother with her infant that just won't sleep

The cancer patient who just been told that the cancer is back again

The father simply trying to provide for his family but can't land a job

The business owner who can't seem to make the books balance

The widow/er who is readjusting to life without their spouse of 20, 30, 40 or more years

2 Kings 6:12-17

⁸ Now the king of Aram was at war with Israel. After conferring with his officers, he said, "I will set up my camp in such and such a place."

⁹ The man of God sent word to the king of Israel: "Beware of passing that place, because the Arameans are going down there." ¹⁰ So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places.

¹¹ This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, "Tell me! Which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?"

¹² "None of us, my lord the king," said one of his officers, "but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom."

¹³ "Go, find out where he is," the king ordered, "so I can send men and capture him." The report came back: "He is in Dothan." ¹⁴ Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city.

¹⁵ When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?" the servant asked.

¹⁶ “Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

3. I am thankful for a God I can trust.

My heart trusts in Him I am helped

Proverbs 3:5-6

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

4. I am thankful for a God who is my joy.

Therefore, my heart triumphs, and with my song I shall thank Him.

The phrase “my heart triumphs” can be interpreted in several ways

- my heart exults
- heart celebrates
- my flesh has revived

my heart is filled with joy. I burst out in songs of thanksgiving.

EXULT

- a. to show or feel a lively or triumphant joy; rejoice exceedingly; be highly elated or jubilant: *They exulted over their victory.*
- b. to leap, especially for joy.

Closing song

Prayer