

Give Thanks

Gratitude Latitude

Craig Smith • November 11, 2018

There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be...ungrateful... (2 Tim. 3:1-2)

Gratitude says a lot about me and God...

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thes. 5:16-18)

Some common spiritual toxins that keep us thankless and not thankful...

- **Stress and worry** – “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” (Phil. 4:6)
- **Spiritual entitlement** – “So they quarreled with Moses and said, ‘Give us water to drink.’ Moses replied, ‘Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?’...And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, ‘Is the LORD among us or not?’” (Exod. 17:2, 7)
- **Grace amnesia** – “One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked Him – and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, ‘Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?’” (Luke 17:15-18)

📌 **The fuel for my gratitude: the character and kindness of God** – “Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever.” (Psalm 106:1b)

Gratitude...

- **Is my choice** – “O LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever.” (Psalm 30:12b)

📌 **Sometimes it's helpful to hunt for hidden joys** – “Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Eph. 5:19b-20)

- **Draws me close to God** – “Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name.” (Psalm 100:4)
- **Results in the glory of God** – “All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.” (2 Cor. 4:15)

Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits – who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. (Psalm 103:2-5)