

THANKING GOD

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

James 1:17 (NIV)

❖ THANKS-MISSING:

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Romans 1:21 (NIV)

1. When it is all about ME (The Worship of SELF).

Many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.

Philippians 3:18-19 (NIV)

2. When there is never ENOUGH (The Worship of STUFF).

And Jesus told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. ¹⁷He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' ¹⁸Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'" ²⁰But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'"

Luke 12:16-20 (NIV)

3. When I'm always seeking new EXPERIENCES (The Worship of SENSATIONS).

❖ THANKS-LIVING:

Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

1. It is choosing to learn and practice CONTENTMENT.

It is better to be satisfied with what you have than to be always wanting something else.

Ecclesiastes 6:9 (GN)

2. It is accepting God's PROVISION, His PLAN, and His TIMING.

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

Hebrews 13:5 (NIV)

3. The mark of true contentment is a LIFE of PEACE.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

❖ THANKS-GIVING:

Yes, you will be enriched so that you can give even more generously. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will break out in thanksgiving to God. ¹²So two good things will happen—the needs of the Christians in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanksgiving to God.

2 Corinthians 9:11-12 (NIV)

1. Giving is a REFLECTION of Godliness.

"It is more blessed to give than receive."

Acts 20:35b (NIV)

2. Our life of giving REVEALS God to others.

Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:9-10 (NIV)

3. When we give, we are REMINDED that we really don't OWN ANYTHING.

But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."

1 Timothy 6:6-10 (NIV)

❖ A Psalm of Thanksgiving: Does this REFLECT your HEART?

On your feet now—applaud GOD! ²Bring a gift of laughter, sing yourselves into his presence. ³Know this: GOD is God, and God, GOD. He made us; we didn't make him. We're his people, his well-tended sheep. ⁴Enter with the password: "Thank you!" Make yourselves at home, talking praise. Thank him. Worship him. ⁵For GOD is sheer beauty, all-generous in love, loyal always and ever.

Psalms 100:1-5 (MSG)