

THANK-FULL PT. 4

This Friday, Shannon and I will celebrate our 27th wedding anniversary

I'm thankful for my "good thing" tonight. We've been through many challenges in the last 27 years, but we are still here, and we're not going anywhere.

I want to share one of our recent challenges with you.
(Christmas lights story)

Psalm 50:23 (NIV)

Those who sacrifice thank offerings honor me,
and to the blameless I will show my salvation."

Psalm 56:12-13 (NIV)

I am under vows to you, my God; I will present my thank offerings to you. For you have delivered me from death and my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before God in the light of life.

To take someone or something for granted: *Underestimate the value of, become use to, to consider common.*

Vacation story when the kids were younger, and we went to Dallas.

3 distorted views of thankfulness.

1. "I'm thankful in my heart".

- **thankfulness is an attitude.**
- **thankfulness is an expression.**
- **thankfulness needs to be verbalized.**

2. “You don’t respond like I think you should when I say “Thank you”.

- **thankfulness is about YOUR heart, not the recipient’s heart.**
- **the purpose of our thankfulness is not for a response.**
- **true thankfulness is unconditional.** (In spite of my circumstances, I’m still thankful. Even if I never hear, “you’re welcome”, I’m still thankful)

3. “I’m a perfectionist, so I’ll be thankful when everyone else improves”.

2 Corinthians 10:12

“For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise”.

- **your judgmental spirit is robbing you of the supernatural breakthrough that thankfulness provides.**

Acts 4:31

“And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.”

- the prayers of unthankful, judgmental hearts have no supernatural response.
- in this passage, I have to believe that their hearts were thankful when they prayed. Therefore, supernatural provision was released as a result of their thankfulness.

It is the plan of the enemy to get you more involved in complaining and murmuring and less involved in giving the Lord thanks and glory.

4 biblical guarantees of Thankfulness

1. Thankfulness can reverse captivity.

- captive by debt?
- captive by addictive behaviors?
- captive by an emotional situation?
- captive by fear?

Acts 16:25-26

“And all midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one’s bands were loosed.

If you don’t appreciate God, you will depreciate with time.

There’s a group of people who won’t have to continue asking God for things because they are always giving God appreciation. In other words, they are speaking it, God will be performing it. For these people, God is already answering. I prophecy that over your life!

Isaiah 65:24 (KJV)

And it shall come to pass, before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

THAT’S SUPERNATURAL !

When we are thankful, God gets committed to meeting needs that are unspoken in prayer.

2. Thanksgiving attracts the presence of God.

Psalm 22:3 (NLT)

Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

A thankful life will reap God’s presence at all times.

You can build a successful future through thanksgiving and praise.

Complaining pre-programs your life for destruction.

1 Corinthians 10:10 (KJV)

Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of their destroyer.

3. Thanksgiving leads to multiplication and increases.

Psalms 67:5-6 (KJV)

Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us.

Think of it like this: Thanksgiving is like rain from heaven. It causes the earth to bud and to bring forth fruit in multiple folds.

John 6:11 (KJV)

And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

4. Thanksgiving destroys the “prayer request” mentality.

It amazes me that there are so many believers who have turned themselves into prayer projects. After Jesus has done great things and finished the work, they still consider themselves a prayer project.

Hebrews 10:36 (JKV)

For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

Be patient in thanksgiving and trust the seed to have its' final work in due season.

Be patient and wait on the glory of God to rest upon your situation.

Being patient while thankful “in the midst” will always lead to the promise of God being fulfilled.

Practical application:

1. Give God glory and thanks for something He’s already done in your past.
2. Take an assessment of how often you complain verses how often you are thankful.
3. If you’re in a season that is requiring great patience, throw seeds of thankfulness on the grounds of that challenge.
4. Who or what are you taking for granted? Change the environment of that situation by offering thanksgiving.