

I. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SEASONS

- Seasons and holidays have the potential to highlight specific events and subjects. It is helpful to us to have specific days to remind us of the significance of certain events and seasons.
- **Thanksgiving** is a season that reminds us to be **thankful**!

II. PRAYER, PRAISE, AND THANKSGIVING

A. Philippians 4:6

NKJV “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;”

AMP “Do not be anxious *or* worried about anything, but in everything [every circumstance and situation] by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your [specific] requests known to God”

- **Kenneth E. Hagin:** “*We are way behind on the thanksgiving part!*”
 - **Testimony of the missionary with smallpox:** She had a vision of an old-fashioned scale. One side was prayer; the other side was praise. The prayer side was stacked very high; the other side was lacking. The Lord said: “When your praise equals your prayers, you will be healed.” She said for two days and nights all she did was praise God. At the end of the two days, she was completely healed.
1. **Praise and thanksgiving are more than an expression; they are connectors to the force of faith resulting in the release of supernatural power.**
 - There is a supply of power that accompanies our giving of thanks.
 - There is a realm of faith that will never be experienced until thanksgiving is added to faith practices.
 - Thanksgiving is an expression of faith.
 - Thanksgiving is a confession of our faith.
 - To increase the productivity of faith, increase your giving of thanks.
 2. **Offer thanksgiving continually.**
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**
NKJV “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

AMP “...in every situation [no matter what the circumstances] be thankful and continually give thanks to God; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.”

PASTOR’S NOTE: *The command to “pray without ceasing” could easily include thanksgiving.*

3. The praise and worship time is connected to thanksgiving.

- We should never diminish or lightly esteem the worship time in a service.
- **Ephesians 5:17-21**

NKJV “Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.”

PASTOR’S NOTE: *As believers, we are commanded to participate in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Notice that these all include giving thanks.*

When we are filled with the Spirit—full of the Spirit—we will have a song of thanksgiving that proceeds from within. If there is no thanksgiving proceeding from your mouth, you need to be filled more with the Spirit.

4. Thanksgiving praise brings God on the scene.

- **Psalms 22:3**

NKJV “But thou *art* holy, *O thou* that **inhabitest the praises** of Israel.”

Other Translations “...You are **ENTHRONED** on...”

PASTOR’S NOTE: *While this passage speaks specifically of praise, we must be reminded that thanksgiving and praise cannot be separated.*

5. Thanksgiving focuses / refocuses your mind on the right things.

- Rather than allowing your mind to LOOP on the negative things around you, thanksgiving and praise breaks the loop. Our attention is refocused on the GREATER ONE.
- **2 Corinthians 2:14**
NKJV “Now thanks *be* to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place”

Legacy Standard Bible “But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ”

CEV “I am grateful that God always makes it possible for Christ to lead us to victory”

PASTOR’S NOTE: *Thanksgiving refocuses us on VICTORY IN CHRIST, then it leads us forward into victory over our circumstances.*

6. Thanksgiving and praise strengthen our faith.

- **Romans 4:20**
NKJV “He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God...”

Aramaic Bible in Plain English “And he did not doubt The Promise of God as if his faith were lacking, but he was strengthened in faith and he gave praise to God.”

GNT “His faith did not leave him, and he did not doubt God's promise; his faith filled him with power, and he gave praise to God”

PASTOR’S NOTE: *As I offer thanksgiving to Him for what His word says regarding me, my faith is strengthened and developed to a higher degree. Thanksgiving increases my capacity to receive.*

B. How do we develop thanksgiving in our life?

- **Hebrews 13:15**

NKJV “Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, **the fruit of our lips**, giving thanks to His name.”

PASTOR’S NOTE: *There are many different expressions of praise mentioned in scripture, singing, dancing, lifting of hands, shouting, etc. The greatest and most powerful expressions of thanksgiving and praise will be those that include words! It was when Jehoshaphat’s army used their words by SINGING praises to God that the battle turned. Words of praise and thanksgiving are power carriers that release the victory into our circumstances. NOTICE: The walls of Jericho did not fall until the children of Israel SHOUTED. Words released in the shout brought the walls down.*