

I. **Thanksgiving is more than an expression it is a connector 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.*

II. **Thanksgiving Scriptures**

A. **The Command to Give Thanks**

1. **Colossians 3:17 (NKJV)** – *And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him*
2. **1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NKJV)** – *in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

This passage is specifically dealing with every type of circumstance. Give thanks to God IN EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE – not giving thanks FOR EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE!

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (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.*

3. **Psalms 100:4 (NKJV)** – *Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.*

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4. **Ephesians 5:20 (KJV)** – *Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;*

Note: Here we are to “GIVE THANKS” for all things that God has provided for us, especially the spiritual blessings that He has provided through Jesus.

B. The Power Released through Thanksgiving

1. Food Sanctified by Thanksgiving

1 Timothy 4:1-5 (NKJV) – ¹Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, ²speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, ³forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. ⁴**For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving;** ⁵**for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer**

1 Timothy 4:4-5 (GNT) – ⁴Everything that God has created is good; nothing is to be rejected, but everything is to be received with a prayer of thanks, ⁵because the word of God and the prayer make it acceptable to God

2. Thanksgiving drives out anxiety.

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;*

Philippians 4:6 (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*

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3. Thanksgiving praise brings God on the scene.

Psalm 22:3 (NKJV) – *But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.*

Other Translations – You are ENTHRONED on.

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

4. 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 re-focused 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*

2 Corinthians 2:14 (LSB) – **(Legacy Standard Bible)** – *But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ*

2 Corinthians 2:14 (CEV) – *I am grateful that God always makes it possible for Christ to lead us to victory*

Note: *Thanksgiving refocuses us on VICTORY IN CHRIST – then leads us forward into victory over our circumstances.*

5. Thanksgiving and praise strengthens 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,*

Romans 4:20 (ABPE) – **(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.*

Romans 4:20 (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*

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.

6. Thanksgiving and praise release power against my enemies.

Psalms 9:1-4 (NKJV) – ¹*I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works.* ²*I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.* ³*When my enemies turn back, they shall fall and perish at Your presence.* ⁴*For You have maintained my right and my cause; You sat on the throne judging in righteousness*

Psalms 9:1 (NIV) – *I will give thanks to you Lord with All of my heart.*

Note: *Thanksgiving and praise for God's ability – brought the Psalmist to a place where he could say, WHEN my enemies turn back – Not IF they turn back.*

C. 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.*

Note: *There are many different expressions of praise mentioned in scripture, singing, dancing, lifting of hands, shouting, etc.*

The greatest and most powerful expression of thanksgiving and praise will be those that include words!

