

# The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES  
with Pastor Greg Formey



## Providence: Learning Gratitude

**Luke 17:11-19**

Sunday, November 17 & 24, 2019

We have an imperfect appreciation for what God has done for us. The tendency when things are going well is to move toward an attitude that takes God and His blessings for granted. It makes sense to be grateful for what God has already done. Those who appreciate the character of God the most realize that they should show gratitude in advance of His favor.

### **Psalm 34:1-3**

**1I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.**

**2My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.**

**3Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!**

### **LEARNING GRATITUDE**

Not only should you trust God, you ought to respond to Him with thankfulness, even when you are in the midst of tough, confusing times. There is no telling where you would be without His hand of providence bringing you to the place where you are today. For this He deserves your gratitude.

### **Ephesians 5:20**

**...giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ... ESV**

We must not forget that every breath, every heartbeat, every mouthful of food, every piece of clothing, and every ray of sunshine come from the hand of God.

We ought to spend far less time wondering why God does what He does and just be thankful that He hides certain details from us. You likely would not have been able to handle it if you knew in advance about everything that has happened to you. We should be grateful that He does not tell us everything.

Could God have prevented that bad thing from happening in your life? Sure He could have – but for whose benefit? For yours or for His? To accomplish what you want or to fulfill His eternal purposes? Look past the here and now, the pain and the hurt, and thank God that He knows what He is doing.

God in His providential care may do/allow some things that we feel are bad: the hurricane, the flood, the accident, the physical infirmity, etc. If He does allow some calamity, He is certainly using it to accomplish His purposes.

## THE EFFECTS OF GRATITUDE

We have such a habit of magnifying our problems and trials that we do not see opportunities to show our thankfulness.

- **To overcome selfishness and to make us rejoice in the happiness of others.**
- **To make us feel a deeper interest in the condition of others.**
- **To elevate and enlarge our conceptions of the goodness of God.**

A person who is ungrateful and establishes a pattern of murmuring will eventually find his/her mind becoming sour. Those who look for opportunities to be thankful will soon find their burdens and sorrows lifted, and their minds tranquil and calm.

## GIVING VOICE TO GRATITUDE

**Psalm 34:1**

**I will praise the LORD at all times. I will constantly speak his praises.** NLT

**Colossians 3:17**

**And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.** NLT

**1 Thessalonians 5:18**

**Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.** NLT

**Job 1:21**

**And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD."** NKJV

## Conclusion

As you thank God for what He has already done, He stands ready to bless you and open many doors for you!