

# The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES  
with Pastor Greg Formey



## Providence: The Effects of Gratitude

### Ephesians 5:20

Sunday, December 1, 2019

Being grateful is not a good thing only because it is right. God advises it also because it carries great reward. It blesses the lives of all who make it a habitual practice.

**Zig Ziglar said, "Gratitude is the healthiest of all human emotions. The more you express gratitude for what you have, the more likely you will have even more to express gratitude for."**

#### Ephesians 5:20

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

#### WHAT GRATITUDE DOES

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

- **Helps you to overcome selfishness and to make us rejoice in the happiness of others.**
- **You have a deeper interest in the condition of others.**

An ambitious farmer, unhappy about the yield of his crops, heard of a highly recommended new seed corn. He bought some and produced a crop that was so abundant his astonished neighbors asked him to sell them a portion of the new seed. But the farmer, afraid that he would lose a profitable competitive advantage, refused.

The second year the new seed did not produce as good a crop, and when the third-year crop was still worse it dawned upon the farmer that his prize corn was being pollinated by the inferior grade of corn from his neighbors' fields.

- **You 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

This is clearly illustrated in the life of David. His fortunes had come to their lowest ebb. He had fled after finding that Saul was determined to put him to death (1 Samuel 20:31).

1 Samuel 21:10-14

He had hoped to find a safe refuge with Achish, but had been disappointed. He was at the point of becoming a fugitive and an outlaw, a dweller in dens and caves of the earth (1 Samuel 22:1).

At the point, he had no followers.

We have to admire his spiritual strength in composing this song of thanksgiving to God.

**"His praise shall continually be in my mouth.**

"Continually" must be understood as meaning either "every day" or "many times every day," but must not be taken literally.

### **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

This is the first principle of a godly life. The main reason for your existence is not your own happiness or perfection, and not even the good of your others, but the "glory of God" Your purpose for living is to carry out the will of God, and to display His moral attributes.

We are taught that if we seek this first, all the other things shall be added unto us.

### **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

This response is exactly opposite of what Satan's expectation.

Why? He conclude this based on his observations of human nature.

Job 1:11

"Reach out and take away everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face!"

People are prone to complaining and placing the blame on God for their misfortunes.

## **Conclusion**

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