

Energized for Mission - Thank GOD

Acts 9:32-43; 10:25-26

If stores can put Halloween candy out in August, and Christmas decorations in October, we can talk about giving _____ a month early!

What's interesting about Thanksgiving is how detached it is from its initial purpose. Many people take time to acknowledge their good fortune or thank the _____ in their lives. But fewer take the time to acknowledge the One from whom _____ blessings flow. Listen to what Washington and Lincoln said about it:

Our parents often spent more time reinforcing a habit of saying please and thank you to _____, but not nearly enough time encouraging the _____ habit of thanking _____. There is really only 1 example of the former, yet dozens, even hundreds of examples of the latter in the Old and New Testaments.

We are forgetting the number one rule of my high school English teacher: "Consider the _____!"

In Acts 9, _____ isn't doing miraculous things. _____ Christ is doing miraculous things _____ Peter. In Acts 10, Peter arrives at Cornelius' house confirming a vision. Cornelius' instinct is to bow down and thank/worship Peter. Peter, to his _____, sets the record straight. No matter what a human being does for you they are always a _____ contributor.

Sadly, it's far too easy for us to give credit to those that _____ blessings instead of their source. Even worse, the sinful flesh of human beings makes it far easier to _____ the thanks and praise of others rather than direct it where it _____. This is why _____ can be hazardous to the health of our _____ and those around us.

Instead of saying someone blessed you, talk about how _____ used that person to bless you. Instead of sharing what you were able to accomplish, tell the story of how _____ accomplished something through you.

This guards against the unrealistic demands and _____ behavior of dysfunctional leaders. It also relieves you (and others) of the unrealistic pressure to _____, and the distortion of your own soul. Even _____ pointed to his Father, with the knowledge that the Father would point to and glorify him.

While this may feel like a hit to our _____, it also has great blessings. God is not _____ involving us fallen creatures in any of his plans. You have a _____! And a future! God is also immensely _____ of accomplishing what he intends...even with highly inadequate materials. His power and ability knows no bounds. God can do it even when we can't. Resurrection and eternal life are ours because of Christ!

How is the Holy Spirit leading you to properly "consider the source" and thank GOD?

How is the Holy Spirit leading you to glorify God by demoting others?

How is the Holy Spirit leading you to glorify God by demoting yourself?

How else is the Spirit leading you to point others to Jesus?

What are you going to DO in response to what Christ has already DONE?