

THANKING THROUGH IT

Ryland Walter | November 11-12, 2023

Week 3: Why I Know God Is Good

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
His love endures forever. — Psalm 136:1 (NIV)

What is the one thing no one has? _____

Why we don't have enough:

The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. But the Lord God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden—except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die."
Genesis 2:15-17 (NLT)

"Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?" ... 4 "You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman.
5 "God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil."
Genesis 3:1,4-5 (NLT)

But what if you got what you wanted?

So that place was called Kibroth-hattaavah (which means "graves of gluttony") because there they buried the people who had craved meat from Egypt.
Numbers 11:34 (NLT)

He gave them exactly what they asked for—but along with it they got an empty heart.
Psalm 106:15 (MSG)

Solomon: I denied myself nothing my eyes desired;
I refused my heart no pleasure.
My heart took delight in all my labor,
and this was the reward for all my toil.
Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done
and what I had toiled to achieve,
everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind;
nothing was gained under the sun.
Ecclesiastes 2:10-11 (NIV)

What is God's solution? _____

- 19 Open for me the gates where the righteous enter, and I will go in and thank the Lord.
- 22 The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.
- 23 This is the Lord's doing, and it is wonderful to see.
- 24 This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. — Psalm 118:19,22-24 (NLT)

What percentage of people are grateful?

Jesus asked, "Didn't I heal ten men? Where are the other nine?"
Luke 17:17 (NIV)

Becoming a Grateful Person

The password into God's presence: _____

Enter with the password: "Thank you!" — Psalm 100:4 (MSG)

Leading spiritual indicator:

Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused.
Romans 1:21 (NLT)

Thankfulness: _____

...pray continually. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 (NIV)

I have learned how to be content with whatever I have.
Philippians 4:11 (NIV)

Let all that I am praise the Lord;
with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name.
Let all that I am praise the Lord;
may I never forget the good things he does for me.
Psalm 103:1-2 (NLT)

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- _____
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Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
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What is the one thing no one has? Enough

Why we don't have enough:

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What is God's solution? Gratitude

¹⁹ Open for me the gates where the righteous enter,
and I will go in and thank the Lord.

²² The stone that the builders rejected
has now become the cornerstone.

²³ This is the Lord's doing,
and it is wonderful to see.

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What percentage of people are grateful?

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Becoming a Grateful Person

The password into God's presence: Thank you

Enter with the password: "Thank you!" — Psalm 100:4 (MSG)

Leading spiritual indicator:

Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused.

Romans 1:21 (NLT)

Thankfulness: Appreciating what I have

...pray continually. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 (NIV)

I have learned how to be content with whatever I have.

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THANKING ~~THINKING~~ THROUGH IT

WHY I KNOW GOD IS GOOD Talk-it-Over Notes | November 11-12, 2023

REVIEW IT

What is the one thing no one seems to have? Enough. Things never seem to be good enough. We get what we want, and then want one thing more. When we follow the world's ways, being content in Christ can be lost on us. This attitude is what led to the first sin and the resulting fall. We were given all we needed, but we believed the lie that God was holding out on us. That what we had wasn't... enough.

What's God's solution to the meaningLESSness of getting everything we want? Gratitude. When we thank Christ, we enter into the presence of God. That is meaningFUL. This is why the leading spiritual indicator is worshipping Christ, thanking him for what he's done. When we appreciate what we have and give thanks in all things, we've learned to be content with whatever we have because Jesus is... enough.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever. — Psalm 136:1 (NIV)

Spend some time in the word: Read Luke 17:11-19

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What stood out to you from this message? What do you remember?
2. The first temptation convinced Adam and Eve that God was holding out on them. That what they had wasn't enough. It got them to doubt God's trustworthiness. How do you see the enemy continuing to use that temptation today?
3. What's the not "enough" for you? Is there something that's happened in your life that has caused you to doubt God's goodness? In other words, what's the one thing that if you had it you'd say God is good?

ACT ON IT

"Let all that I am praise the Lord; with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name.

² Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I never forget the good things he does for me." Psalm 103:1-2 (NLT)

How would *you* finish that list. This time of year is filled with the idea of listing reasons why you're thankful. That's a good practice as long as it gives praise to God. You appreciate what you have and say, Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever. List some of the good things Jesus has done for you.

PRAY ABOUT IT

Take a moment and literally say out loud your thanks to God. Not just think it, but say it. Try this... Go around your group and each read the first two verses of Psalm 103, and then read the things you listed out loud in prayer with your group.