

Grateful & Thankful
Tuesday, November 21, 2023

What's the difference between thankful and grateful?

Being thankful implies you are expressing your appreciation for something that God has given you.

As believers, we have more to be thankful for than all others. Let's focus on what we have received. We have received love. We have received redemption. We have received eternal life. We have received hope. We have received power. We do not wait on these things: we possess them. On top of those possessions, we are thankful for specific acts of kindness received from God: Relationships, provision, life, etc.

Being grateful is about appreciating what one has, as opposed to what one wants.

A grateful life is a contented life. Gratefulness originates from an eternal focus. It is less focused on where one is now and more focused on "whose" we are. Things come and go – circumstances come and pass. But our belonging to God is an eternal reality in which all our needs are met in our relationship with Him. Gratefulness begins and endures through what never changes – God and me being His.

Tonight, we are both thankful and grateful. You are going to be served communion. When you partake after everyone is served, you will express your thankfulness for what God has done for you. You will leave tonight with gratefulness that you belong to Him.