

Thanksgiving 2018

11/18/18

1. This is the time we set aside to offer **thanksgiving** to God
2. God has called on us to be a people of thanksgiving
3. Looking at the world you might not know that God is **a God of great joy!**

Psalm 100:1 Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth.

² Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing.

³ Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; *We are* His people and the sheep of His pasture.

⁴ Enter His gates with thanksgiving, And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him; bless His name.

⁵ For the LORD is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting, And His faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 32:11 Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous ones; And shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.

Psalm 47:1 O clap your hands, all peoples; Shout to God with the voice of joy.

Psalm 66:1 Shout joyfully to God, all the earth;

Psalm 95:1 O come, let us sing for joy to the LORD, Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation.

² Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

- a. **Feast days** in OT – one word means “to dance” – signifying joy & gladness; every 7th day, 7th month, 7th year, lapse of 7th year
4. **If** God is a God of joy – why is there so much pain in the world?
 - a. The world was told to rejoice & give thanks
 - b. But the world **refused** to **give thanks** to God

Romans 1:21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was **darkened**.

²² Professing to be wise, they became fools,

²³ and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

5. Maybe you are having a hard time rejoicing & giving thanks this year
 - a. Let's look at what the Scripture says about joy & thanksgiving

6. Don't confuse happiness w/ joy – they are 2 different things
- a. **Happiness** is based on circumstances
 - i. Some people simply inherited a healthy brain – pleasant outlook – or it could be a thousand other circumstances
 - b. **Joy can be** synonymous w/ happiness but there is a difference – its roots go all the way down to the soul
 - i. While happiness is circumstantial
 - ii. **Joy** is a work of the Holy Spirit
 - iii. In fact it is a part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit
 - iv. **Only** God's Spirit can give joy as it is defined in Scripture **Galatians 5:22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, **joy**, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
 - c. The Apostle Paul wrote (the book of joy) Philippians while in jail – poor circumstances!
 - d. God's kingdom is in a different sphere than the kingdom of this world

Romans 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and **joy** in the Holy Spirit.
 - e. That is why when a person comes to Christ they are to give up the world's way of thinking

Ephesians 5:3 (NIV) But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.
⁴ Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.
 - f. Daniel the prophet was a perfect example of someone between a rock & a hard place who didn't allow circumstances to alter his heart of thanksgiving

Daniel 6:4 (NIV) At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.

⁵ Finally these men said, "We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God."

⁶ So the administrators and the satraps went as a group to the king and said: "O King Darius, live forever!

⁷ The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or man during the next thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into the lions' den.

⁸ Now, O king, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered--in accordance with the laws of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed."

⁹ So King Darius put the decree in writing.

¹⁰ Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

7. You as a believer can have joy while your heart is aching

Romans 12:12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer

a. He didn't say that we are **not** to have tribulation

i. He said that we are to "persevere" under tribulation

ii. "persevere" = ὑπομένω – "hupo" = under; meno = abide

iii. "persevere" means to dwell or abide under pressure

iv. God wants give you a heart of rejoicing even while hurting if you will allow Him to

8. That is why a lifestyle of complaining is not acceptable for the believer
1 Corinthians 10:9 Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents.
¹⁰ Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.
- i. Why is complaining so bad?
 - ii. Grumbling & complaining is saying – “God You haven’t done a very good job taking care of me!”

9. When you are controlled by **the Holy Spirit** – you will have a heart of thanksgiving

Ephesians 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be **filled** with the Spirit,
¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;
²⁰ **always giving thanks** for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

10. When you are controlled by **Word of God** – you have a heart of thanksgiving

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
¹⁷ Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, **giving thanks** through Him to God the Father.

11. We are told to give thanks no matter what our circumstances are

1 Thessalonians 5:16 Rejoice always;
¹⁷ pray without ceasing;
¹⁸ in **everything** give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

- i. A absence of a thankful heart disturbs the Holy Spirit

1 Thessalonians 5:16 Rejoice always;
¹⁷ pray without ceasing;
¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for

you in Christ Jesus.

¹⁹ Do not **quench** the Spirit;

- ii. You don't give thanks because you feel like it
- iii. You can't help how you feel – you can only help what you do!
- iv. You give thanks as an act of your will

12. Therefore we are told not to worry about anything but to pray about everything & be thankful

Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

13. That doesn't mean that we are to be flippant or non-caring about the hurts in the world

Colossians 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving;

Colossians 4:2 (NLT2) Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.

14. It is easier to give thanks when you focus see the big picture

Colossians 1:9 For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,
¹⁰ **so that** you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

¹¹ strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously

¹² giving thanks to the Father, **who has qualified us to share** in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

15. Our present problems can't compare w/ our future

Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

¹⁹ For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.

16. We rejoice b/c the best is yet to come!

Revelation 11:17 saying, "We give Thee thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who art and who wast, because Thou hast taken Thy great power and hast begun to reign.

17. We will forever be thanking Him for Who He is & what He has done

Revelation 4:9 And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever,

Revelation 11:17 saying, "We give Thee thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who art and who was, because Thou hast taken Thy great power and hast begun to reign.

18. If you want to live in peace in the coming year – Scripture is clear as to how

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

⁵ Let your gentle *spirit* be known to all men. The Lord is near.

⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

19. Are there people in your life for whom you are thankful?

20. Are there circumstances for which you are thankful?

21. How about spending eternity w/ God – are you thankful for Him?

