

Prayer

Thanksgiving

# Questions

- What is Prayer?
- What is the place of Corporate Prayer?

# A.C.T.S

- Adoration: Rendering to God the honor, respect, glory, and love due His holy majesty in light of how worthy he is
- Confession: Affirming and Agreeing with God's perspective and revelation
- Thanksgiving: ...

## ***Prayer Component #1 - WORSHIPFUL ADORATION***

1.2. In the Psalms we see praise mingled with other components of prayer, as worship undergirds these other elements.

Psalm 119 especially shows the interconnectedness of praise with other elements of prayer:

- thanksgiving (“I shall give thanks to you” – v. 7)
- commitment (“I shall keep Your statutes” – v. 8)
- petition (“Deal bountifully with Your servant” – v. 17)
- confession (“I cling to Your testimonies!” – v. 31)
- separation (“I hate those who are double-minded” – v. 113)
- etc.

## ***Prayer Component #1 - WORSHIPFUL ADORATION***

1.3. *Praise* and *thanksgiving* appear to be virtually synonymous in many Psalms.

- Conceptually, praise especially mingles with thanksgiving (Pss 75; 103-105)
- Lexically, the terms express the main thought of ***appreciation, acknowledgement, or recognition***—whether of God’s person, His works, or His gifts.
- Careful, neat distinctions between the terms cannot be maintained (e.g., “praise” is for God’s person; “thanksgiving” is for His words).

## ***Prayer Component #1 - WORSHIPFUL ADORATION***

Rosscup: “Both English words ‘praise’ and ‘thanksgiving’ are words under one umbrella—acknowledgement/appreciation/respect for God’s excellent worthiness. Both give credit or glory or magnification for His **attributes** and for His **acts**.”

If any distinction is to be made:

- **PRAISE**: focuses more particularly on **God’s greatness** in His person and His performance.
- **THANKSGIVING**: focuses more on **our gratitude** for His person and His performance (i.e., it is our response to the direct and personal intersection of God’s greatness **in our lives**).

# Praise/Thanksgiving in the Psalms

- ◉ (זמר) 41x: "sing praise"/"praise"
  - ◉ With song/With Musical Instrument
- ◉ (שמח) 52x: "rejoice"/"be glad"
  - ◉ To be glad/merry in/on account of/because of the person/works of God
- ◉ (ידה) 67x: "praise"/"give thanks"/"confess"
  - ◉ To proclaim truth/Praise/confess God's perfections
- ◉ (הלל) 89x: "praise"/"confess"
  - ◉ To eulogize/To proclaim/exclaim the wonderful/mighty/praise-worth deeds and person of God

*Prayer's components . . .*

## ***2. THANKSGIVING***

*Thanksgiving* is our response of **gratitude** for His person and His works, as we observe/consider/remember how God has intersected with and ruled over our lives and the lives of others.

*Psalm 9:1* – “I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart; I will tell of all Your wonders.”

*Psalm 75:1* – “We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks; For Your name is near; Men declare Your wondrous works.”

*1 Thess 5:18* – “in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”



## ***Prayer Component #2 - THANKSGIVING***

- 2.1. Thanksgiving is a dominant theme in the Psalter (e.g., Pss 103, 136, 138).
- 2.2. Thanksgiving cannot be separated from praise.
- 2.3. The refusal to give thanks is a chief characteristic of the unsaved.
  - Rom 1:21 – “For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile . . .”
  - 2 Tim 3:2 – “For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy”

## ***Prayer Component #2 - THANKSGIVING***



“If all be a gift, see the odious ingratitude of men who sin against their giver! God feeds them, and they fight against him; he gives them bread, and they give him affronts. How unworthy is this! Should we not cry shame of him who had a friend always feeding him with money, and yet he should betray and injure him? Thus ungratefully do sinners deal with God; they not only forget his mercies, but abuse them. “When I had fed them to the full, they then committed adultery” (Jer. 5:7). Oh, how horrid is it to sin against a bountiful God!—to strike the hands that relieve us!”

*~Thomas Watson*

## ***Prayer Component #2 - THANKSGIVING***

2.4. Thanksgiving is to be offered in “in everything” (1 Thess 5:18), cultivated in a spirit of authentic contentment and in the place of anxiety over the cares of this life.

This is the secret of contentment, to be able to “consider all joy” when various trials are encountered (James 1:2), and to “know how to get along with humble means” and also “in prosperity” (Phil 4:12).

This is the worry-free life, to “be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God” (Phil 4:6).

## *Prayer Component #2 - THANKSGIVING*

“Christian contentment is that sweet, inward, quiet, gracious frame of spirit, which freely submits to and delights in God’s wise and fatherly disposal in every condition.”

*~Jeremiah Burroughs*



“Oh, what I owe to the furnace, the file, and the hammer of my Lord Jesus!”

*~Samuel Rutherford*

## ***Prayer Component #2 - THANKSGIVING***

Q: Why do we give thanks especially before meals?

A: The practice of Jesus and the apostles; a particular acknowledgement of dependency.

- *Matt 15:36/Mark 8:6/John 6:11* – “and He took the seven loaves and the fish; and giving thanks, He broke them and started giving them to the disciples ...”
- *Matt 26:27/Mark 14:23/Luke 22:17* – “And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying ...”
- *Luke 22:19* – “And when He had taken *some* bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, ...”
- *Luke 24:30* – “When He had reclined *at the table* with them, He took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, He *began* giving it to them.”
- *Acts 27:35* – “Having said this, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of all, and he broke it and began to eat.”
- *1 Cor 10:30-31* – “If I partake with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that for which I give thanks? So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”
- *1 Tim 4-5* – “For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude; for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer.”

***Prayer Components #1 & 2 - WORSHIPFUL ADORATION & THANKSGIVING***

PRAISE Him for His . . .

Perfections  
Attributes  
Worthiness  
Excellence  
Exaltedness  
Beauty  
Blessedness  
Person  
Glory  
Greatness  
Virtues  
Majesty  
Honor  
Power

THANK Him for His . . .

Performance  
Acts  
Works  
Exhibits, exploits  
Expressions  
Benefits  
Blessings  
Presents  
Glorious deeds  
Gifts  
Victories  
Manifestations  
Helps  
Products

God's Actions	Ingratitude
Reveals Himself	Rejects revelation in preference to personal gratification
Provides Bread	Demands meat
Promises a Future	Prefers the past
Welcomes foreigners into His family	Prefers the company of strangers

God's Actions	Thanksgiving
Reveals Himself	Acknowledges revelation Give thanks for revelation Seeks to see Him in His revelation
Provides Bread	Acknowledges need for bread Give thanks for God's providence Continues to rely on providence
Promises a Future	Acknowledges promise Give thanks for promise Believes/Anticipates promise
Welcomes foreigners into His family	Acknowledges past enmity Gives thanks new birth Lives as a member of God's family



# Ps. 136 Reasons to Give Thanks

- "For He is good"

- כִּי טוֹב

- YHWH is the definition of goodness and is therefore worthy of thanksgiving

- "For His lovingkindness endures forever"

- כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדּוֹ

- Because His loyal love (hesed) endures forever/is everlasting/has no bounds

- Grace/Mercy/Love/Loyalty/Faithfulness all rolled into one...This is Who God IS more than what He does

# Psalm 136

- YHWH as God (vv. 1-4)
- YHWH as Creator (vv. 5-9)
- YHWH as Redeemer (vv. 10-16)
- YHWH as Victor (vv. 17-22)
- YHWH as Covenant Keeper (vv. 23-25)
- YHWH as God (v. 26)

- vv. 1-4: Give thanks because YHWH is God..and He will forever be God
- vv. 5-9: Give thanks because YHWH is creator..and will continue to have dominion over His creation
- vv. 10-16: Give thanks because YHWH is our Redeemer..and will forever be the source of our redemption
- vv. 17-20: Give thanks because YHWH is the victor..and He will never be defeated
- vv. 21-25: Give thanks because YHWH is a covenant keeper... and He will never forsake His Word
- v. 26: Give thanks because YHWH is God..and He will forever be God