

GLORY FOR ALL GENERATIONS 1 - GRATITUDE

I. GRATITUDE IS A STRATEGY FOR LIFE

- **CELEBRATING THANKSGIVING IS ABOUT FAMILIES**
- **THANKSGIVING IS ABOUT SURVIVING HARDSHIP TO OVERCOME.** *(THE PILGRIM'S FIRST THANKSGIVING)*
- **THANKSGIVING IS A CELEBRATION OF ABUNDANCE AND THE GOODNESS OF GOD!** *(48 YEARS OF CELEBRATING FOR US - feeding 50-60 people with a 12 pound turkey)*

A. THE ART AND SCIENCE OF BEING THANKFUL

2Cor. 9:10 Now may He who supplies **seed** to the sower, and **bread** for food, **supply** and **multiply** the **seed** you have **sown** and **increase** the fruits of your righteousness, ¹¹ while *you are* **enriched in everything** for all **liberality**, which **causes thanksgiving** through us to God.

1. **THANK GOD AT THE SEED STAGE - BREAD COMES LATER.**
EVERY PROMISE SHOWS UP AS A SEED FIRST. BE GRATEFUL
even if you have to work for the bread
2. **GENEROSITY IS A WAY TO RECOGNIZE THE GIVER OF ALL SEED** - Giving multiplies seed and enriches our life in all ways, which increases thanksgiving all the way around.
3. **GIVE THANKS OUT LOUD - THANKSGIVING IS A SOUND!**

Psa. 26:7 That I may **proclaim** with the voice of thanksgiving, And tell of all Your wondrous works.

Psa. 69:30 I will praise the name of God **with a song**,
And will **magnify** *(Bigger and easier to see)* Him with thanksgiving.

Psa. 95:2 Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving;
Let us **shout joyfully** to Him with psalms.

- ***GIVING THANKS OUT LOUD IS POWERFUL!***
- *It's part of our **WORSHIP***

- It is also at the heart of our **PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION**
- It helps us experience the **PRESENCE** of God
- It increases our **INFLUENCE FOR GOOD** on those around us
- It supports the ongoing development of our **CHARACTER**.

B. THE BENEFITS OF GIVING THANKS

1. GIVING THANKS FOR PEOPLE makes us grow up

1Tim. 2:1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and giving of thanks be made for all men*,

2Th. 1:3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, *(Developing Maturity)* and the love of every one of you all abounds *(Relational Intelligence)* toward each other,

- **More Love** - Expressions of love, encouragement, support and affection ***all increase in an environment that values gratitude.***
- **More Humility** - Are we able to be grateful for those who annoy us? What about those who are doing better than we are?
- **More Forgiveness** - Appreciation is a simple, yet powerful, way to check our attitude before we get to offense.
- **More Honor** - When we support an atmosphere of gratitude with our ***appreciation of others it helps create a culture of honor*** where we can all benefit.
- **More Impartation** - Being ***grateful*** makes us ***more aware*** of what is happening around us. We won't miss out on what is available from God and from others around us.

2. GIVING THANKS TO GOD aligns us

Rev. 11:17 saying: "We give You **thanks**, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because ***You have taken Your great power***

and reigned.

- **Positions us properly before Him** - Lord- God- Almighty
- **Understanding the scope of His Immensity** - He exceeds us in every way.
- **Recognize the Value of His Rule-** Good Leadership brings PEACE

3. GIVING THANKS IN TRIALS transforms us

1Th. 5:18 in (Not for) everything give **thanks**; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

- **Gain Perspective-** See higher than self-pity, resentments, complaints
- **Develop Wisdom-** How things really work and what is my true source
- **Deepen Worship-** When we worship in our pain or confusion it demonstrates that we are completely His and choose to give Him ***costly worship. Only in this life can we give Sacrificial Worship***

4. GIVING THANKS FOR ALL THINGS is a secret weapon

Eph. 5:20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

- **It Destroy Lack-** Gratitude is the beginning of living from abundance. It opens our life to more and destroys a poverty mentality (*not enough*)

“Thanksgiving is the language of Increase” - Bill Johnson
(Jesus gave thanks when he broke bread for 5K)

- **It Overcomes Judgment-** Shifts our focus away from criticism.
- **It Dismantles Disappointment-** *ALL Change begins with an attitude adjustment. GRATITUDE CAN LEAD TO A SPIRITUAL SHIFT IN US*

5. GIVING THANKS IS THE DOORWAY TO HIS PRESENCE

Psa. 100:4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

6. **ABOUNDING WITH THANKSGIVING - When we live to bless** we actually create more opportunities for people to be grateful. It is within each of us to shift an atmosphere through our generosity.

2Cor. 4:15 For all things *are* for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, **may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.**

Jer. 30:19 Then out of them shall proceed **thanksgiving** And the voice of those who make merry; **I will multiply them, and they shall not diminish; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small.**

7. **RE-ALIGN YOUR HEART TO HEAVEN'S JOY THROUGH GRATITUDE AND BY *CELEBRATING LIFE!***

Luke 15:22 *"But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. 23 And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; 24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'* And they began to be merry.

THE FATTED CALF COULD'VE BEEN A TURKEY!

LUKE 15 - *The party was to CELEBRATE LIFE not that the prodigal was now making better decisions. FATHER RELEASED LIFE through love and forgiveness before any changes were made.*

THE ELDER BROTHER WAS NOT GRATEFUL FOR HIS FAMILY
He complained about brother and Dad about not getting a goat

GRATITUDE IS THE BEGINNING OF SEEING LIFE FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE