

Be Thankful

In this lesson we want to focus on Scriptures that express **thanksgiving** toward our Father in Heaven. Our song service had the theme of being **thankful** to God. We will also offer several prayers of **thanks** to God during this worship.

We are **commanded** in the Bible to **be thankful**.

Psalm 100:3-5 - "³ Know that the Lord, He 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 into His gates with **thanksgiving**, and into His courts with praise. **Be thankful** to Him, and bless His name. ⁵ For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations."

Psalm 95:2 - "Let us come before His presence with **thanksgiving**; let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms."

Colossians 3:15 - "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and **be thankful**."

The spirit of **giving thanks** permeates throughout the Bible. 139 times in the New King James Version you will read the words **thank, thanks, thanksgiving, thankful, and thankfulness**. God expects His people to **be thankful**. How do you measure up to His expectation?

Have you ever created a list of those things for which you are **thankful**? I have and it always helps me to review it. The list is long and reminds me how good God is and how good my life is.

Daniel 6:10 - "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and **gave thanks** before his God, as was his custom since early days."

Colossians 4:2 - "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with **thanksgiving**;"

We must be committed to our prayers of thanks, gratitude, and appreciation for the following:

1. Give thanks for Family and Friends.

Romans 16:3-4 - "³ Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, ⁴ who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I **give thanks**, but also all the churches of the Gentiles."

Ephesians 1:16 - "do not cease to **give thanks** for you, making mention of you in my prayers:"

Philippians 1:3 - I **thank** my God upon every remembrance of you,"

Ephesians 5:20 - "**giving thanks** always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,"

2. Give thanks for Health, Jobs, Income, and Other Physical Blessings.

Luke 17:15-16 - "¹⁵And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, ¹⁶and fell down on his face at His feet, **giving Him thanks**. And he was a Samaritan."

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

1 Thessalonians 5:18 - "in everything **give thanks**; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

3. Give thanks for God's Creation for Our Use and Enjoyment.

Psalm 65:9-10 - "⁹You visit the earth and water it, You greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; You provide their grain, for so You have prepared it. ¹⁰You water its ridges abundantly, You settle its furrows; You make it soft with showers, You bless its growth."

Psalm 95:1-5 - "¹Oh come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. ²Let us come before His presence with **thanksgiving**; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. ³For the Lord is the great God, and the great King above all gods. ⁴In His hand are the deep places of the earth; the heights of the hills are His also. ⁵The sea is His, for He made it; and His hands formed the dry land."

Psalm 26:7 - "That I may proclaim with the voice of **thanksgiving**, and tell of all Your wondrous works."

Psalm 75:1 - "We **give thanks** to You, O God, we **give thanks!** For Your wondrous works declare that Your name is near."

4. Give thanks for Spiritual Blessings in Christ our Savior, Forgiveness, Church Fellowship, and the Promise of Heaven.

1 Chronicles 23:30 - The Levites were commanded "to stand every morning to **thank** and praise the Lord, and likewise at evening;"

1 Corinthians 15:57 - "But **thanks** be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

2 Corinthians 9:15 - "**Thanks** be to God for His indescribable gift!"

Ephesians 1:3 - "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,"

Hebrews 13:15 - "Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, **giving thanks** to His name."

Action items

1. Make of list of all your blessings for which you are thankful.
2. Thank God for being so good to you.
3. Thank God everyday for at least one thing that He has done for you or is doing for you.
4. Thank someone for what they have done or are doing.