



Thanksgiving

Psalm 100 (NKJV®)

¹ Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! ² Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. 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.

Definition:

Thankfulness is an attitude of heart that acknowledges the faithfulness and goodness of God.

Essentially being thankful begins with:

I. Our Thankfulness for the Grace of God in Our Lives

Being utterly destitute and bankrupt spiritually and unable to rectify our position and thus destined for a lost eternity; God nevertheless reached out to us by Christ's atoning death. In time He engages us by:

A. Common Grace; which is the caring power of God.

Matthew 5:45 (NKJV®)

".....for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."

B. Prevenient Grace, which is the drawing power of God.

John 6:44 (NKJV®)

"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him and I will raise him up at the last day."

C. Efficacious Grace, which is the saving power of God.

Titus 3:4 (NKJV®)

"But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit..."

II. Our Thankfulness for God Himself

Being thankful for a God that exists and Who is holy, loving, and just keeps us from foolishness and perversion. It is when we forget God that we return to our depravity and sinfulness.

Romans 1:21 (NKJV®)

"...because although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were they thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened."

III. Our Thankfulness for Our Nation

A people that forget the footprints of God in their roots and history will disintegrate and vanish. God loves nations that, through their generations, honor the great things that He has done for them and are subsequently thankful. Yad Vashem admonishes Israel and all those who pass through its gates with these words:

“Remembrance leads to redemption, but forgetfulness is the road to exile.”

Remembrance and thankfulness go together as Jesus reminded us in the breaking of bread. We remember and give thanks for what He has done for us on the cross. Also, God has done amazing things for the United States of America, and we must ensure that our children and their children know of them.

They must know everything about the Pilgrim Fathers, their struggles and fortitude and how God helped them. They must be taught about their living faith in God and in Christ our Savior that held them true to their mission and adventure. They must learn to be thankful for the great leaders that followed, bringing independence and nationhood into existence and all held together by values that came straight out of the Bible. This is our heritage, our roots, and our very existence. If we are not thankful for these things we will lose them!

Joshua echoed these truths when he said to Israel:

Joshua 4:21-24 (NKJV®)

²¹ Then he spoke to the children of Israel, saying: “When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, “What *are* these stones? ²² then you shall let your children know, saying, ‘Israel crossed over this Jordan on dry land’; ²³ for the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed over,²⁴ that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the LORD, that it *is* mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever.”

Our children must know:

- A. The journey
- B. The monuments
- C. The intervention of God
- D. The deliverance...and,
- E. The majesty and glory of God

In 1892, the United States Supreme Court issued this ruling:

“Our laws and institutions must necessarily be based upon the teachings of the Redeemer of mankind. It is impossible that it should be otherwise; and in this sense and to this extent, our civilization and our institutions are empathically Christian. This is historically true. From the discovery of this continent to the present hour, there is a single voice making this affirmation; that this is a Christian nation. We are founded to legislate, propagate, and secure Christianity...”

This, my friends, is Thanksgiving; may it be a blessed one!

Prayer:

Dear Father in Heaven, we do thank You this week for our Pilgrim and Founding Fathers who, inspired by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, strived for, sacrificed for, and even died for the United States of America. It is also with joy and thanksgiving that we remember that our great nation and its Constitution were built on the foundation of the Great Awakening and the preaching of Jonathan Edwards and George Whitfield. May we too see our nation renewed by the glorious preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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