

Thanksgiving

Focus Verse: “In everything give Thanks. For this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”(1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Thanksgiving is upon us. It is my favorite holiday of the entire year. This week for Bible Study, we will be giving thanks to our wonderful Father God and Savior Jesus. So, without much fanfare, here are some Bible verses about being thankful and giving God “Thanks”-giving. I have also formatted a quick questionnaire to help us think of the wonders God has done on our behalf this year. We will go over them during the Bible Study. Then, we will end with key concepts to keep our hearts right!

Colossians 2:6-7 “You received Christ Jesus the Lord, so continue to live as Christ's people. Sink your roots in him and build on him. Be strengthened by the faith that you were taught, and overflow with Thanksgiving.”

Psalms 26:6-7 “I will wash my hands in innocence. I will walk around your altar, O LORD, so that I may loudly sing a hymn of Thanksgiving and tell about all your miracles.”

Psalms 95:1-3 “O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with Thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.”

Psalms 100:4-5 “Enter into his gates with Thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endures to all generations.”

- **Recall at least (1) time God has answered a very critical prayer in the last year.**
- **List at least (5) things you would like to publicly thank God for.**
- **List at least (5) people you are thankful God has put in your life.**
- **Briefly describe how God has continued to help you grow in His love over the last year.**
- **How does it make you feel that God has called you His child?**
- **Describe at least (1) thing you are looking forward to God doing for you in the coming year, and that you will openly give Him thanksgiving when He does it.**
- **IF you had to pick (1) thing to thank God for above all else, what would it be?**

Keys To Finding Peace, Joy, & Thanksgiving In The Lord.

Hebrews 13:5-6 “Let your way of life be without the love of money, and **be content with such things as you have**, for He has said, "Not at all will I leave you, not at all will I forsake you, never!" (6) so that we may boldly say, "The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do to me."

Luke 3:14 “Then some soldiers also asked him, “And as for us – what should we do?” He told them, “Take money from no one by violence or by false accusation, **and be content with your pay.**”

Philippians 4:10-13 “But I rejoice in the Lord greatly, that now at length you have revived your thought for me; in which you did indeed take thought, but you lacked opportunity. (11) Not that I speak because of lack, **for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content in it. (12) I know how to be humbled, and I know also how to abound. In everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to be hungry, both to abound and to be in need. (13) I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.**”

1 Timothy 6:6-10 “**Now godliness combined with contentment brings great profit.** (7) For we have brought nothing into this world and so we cannot take a single thing out either. (8) **But if we have food and shelter, we will be satisfied with that.** (9) Those who long to be rich, however, stumble into temptation and a trap and many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. (10) For the love of money is the root of all evils. Some people in reaching for it have strayed from the faith and stabbed themselves with many pains.”

Proverbs 15:15-16 “All the days of the afflicted are wretched, but one who has a **cheerful heart enjoys a continual feast. (16) Better is little, with the fear of Yahweh, than great treasure with trouble.**”

Psalms 37:16 “**Better is a little that the righteous has,** than the abundance of many wicked.”

Philippians 4:4-7 “**Rejoice** in the Lord always! Again I will say, “**Rejoice!**” (5) Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. (6) In **nothing be anxious**, but in everything, by **prayer and petition with thanksgiving**, let your requests be made known to God. (7) And **the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.**”

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Isaiah 26:3-4 “You keep completely safe the people **who maintain their faith**, for **they trust in you**. (4) **Trust in the LORD** from this time forward, even in Yah, the LORD, an enduring protector!”

1 Peter 5:6-7 “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time; (7) **casting all your worries on him, because he cares for you.**”

Psalms 55:22 “**Cast your burden on Yahweh, and he will sustain you. He will never allow the righteous to be moved.**”

John 14:1 “**Don’t let your heart be troubled. Believe in God. Believe also in me.**”

John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, give I to you. **Don’t let your heart be troubled, neither let it be fearful.**”

Colossians 3:14-15 “Above all these things, walk in love, which is the bond of perfection. (15) And **let the peace of God rule in your hearts**, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.”

Psalms 4:6-8 “Many say, “Who can show us anything good?” Smile upon us, LORD! (7) You make me happier than those who have abundant grain and wine. (8) **I will lie down and sleep peacefully, for you, LORD, make me safe and secure.**”

Proverbs 3:24-26 “**When you lie down, you will not be afraid**. Yes, you will lie down, and your sleep will be sweet. (25) **Don’t** be afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it comes: (26) for Yahweh will be your confidence, and will keep your foot from being taken.”

The Key:

Psalms 119:164-168 “Seven times a day, I praise you, because of your righteous ordinances. (165) **Those who love your law have great peace**. Nothing causes them to stumble. (166) I have hoped for your salvation, Yahweh. I have done your commandments. (167) My soul has observed your testimonies. I love them exceedingly. (168) I have obeyed your precepts and your testimonies, for all my ways are before you.”

Key Concepts For This Thanksgiving:

We are called to recognize moments of Thanksgiving before our God. As we see here in these moments, God requires us to shrug off the concerns, disappointments, and struggles in life, and focus our complete attention to Him with great gratitude.

Nehemiah 8:9-12 “Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people, said to all the people, “**Today is holy to Yahweh your God. Don't mourn, nor weep.**” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. (10) Then he said to them, “Go your way. Eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to him for whom nothing is prepared, for today is holy to our Lord. **Don't be grieved**, for the joy of Yahweh is your strength.” (11) So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Hold your peace, for the day is holy. **Don't be grieved.**” (12) All the people went their way to eat, to drink, to send portions, and to celebrate, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.” ***Finding & Reading The Law***

Deuteronomy 16:11 “**You shall rejoice before Yahweh your God:** you, your son, your daughter, your male servant, your female servant, the Levite who is within your gates, the foreigner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are among you, in the place which Yahweh your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there.” ***Feast of Weeks***

Deuteronomy 16:14 “**You shall rejoice in your feast,** you, your son, your daughter, your male servant, your female servant, the Levite, the foreigner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your gates.” ***Feast of Booths***

Remember The Unfortunate Around You

Luke 14:12-14 “He also said to the one who had invited him, “When you make a dinner or a supper, don’t call your friends, nor your brothers, nor your kinsmen, nor rich neighbors, or perhaps they might also return the favor, and pay you back. (13) But when you make a feast, **ask the poor, the maimed, the lame, or the blind;** (14) and you will be blessed, because they don’t have the resources to repay you. For you will be repaid in the resurrection of the righteous.”

James 1:27 “Pure religion and undefiled before our God and Father is this: to **visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction,** and to keep oneself unstained by the world.”

Acts 20:35 “In all things I gave you an example, that so laboring **you ought to help the weak,** and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that he himself said, **‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’**”

Deuteronomy 15:7-8 “If a poor man, one of your brothers, is with you within any of your gates in your land which Yahweh your God gives you, **you shall not harden your heart, nor shut your hand from your poor brother;** (8) but you shall surely open your hand to him, and shall surely lend him sufficient for his need, which he lacks.”

Love God & Jesus By Loving Others!

Matthew 25:31-46 “But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. (32) Before him all the nations will be gathered, and he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. (33) He will set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. (34) Then the King will tell those on his right hand, ‘Come, blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; (35) for I was hungry, and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me drink. I was a stranger, and you took me in. (36) I was naked, and you clothed me. I was sick, and you visited me. I was in prison, and you came to me.’ (37) “Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry, and feed you; or thirsty, and give you a drink? (38) When did we see you as a stranger, and take you in; or naked, and clothe you? (39) When did we see you sick, or in prison, and come to you?’ (40) “The King will answer them, ‘Most certainly I tell you, because you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’ ***Continues On Next Page...***

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(41) Then he will say also to those on the left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and his angels; (42) for I was hungry, and you didn't give me food to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me no drink; (43) I was a stranger, and you didn't take me in; naked, and you didn't clothe me; sick, and in prison, and you didn't visit me.' (44) "Then they will also answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and didn't help you?' (45) "Then he will answer them, saying, 'Most certainly I tell you, because you didn't do it to one of the least of these, you didn't do it to me.' (46) These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Proverbs 3:27-28 "**Don't withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do it.** (28) Don't say to your neighbor, "Go, and come again; tomorrow I will give it to you," when you have it by you."

James 4:17 "To him therefore **who knows to do good, and doesn't do it**, to him it is sin."

The Benefits Of Remembering The Poor & Brokenhearted.

Philippians 4:18-20 "For I have received everything, and I have plenty. I have all I need because I received from Epaphroditus what you sent – a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, very pleasing to God. (19) And **my God will supply your every need according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.** (20) May glory be given to God our Father forever and ever. Amen."

Proverbs 19:17 "The **one who is gracious to the poor lends to the LORD**, and the LORD will repay him for his good deed."

Proverbs 28:27 "The **one who gives to the poor will not lack**, but whoever shuts his eyes to them will receive many curses."

Enjoy The Day Given To You By God To The Fullest

Matthew 6:27-34 “Which of you, by being anxious, can add one moment to his lifespan? (28) Why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They don’t toil, neither do they spin, (29) yet I tell you that even Solomon in all his glory was not dressed like one of these. (30) But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today exists, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, won’t he much more clothe you, you of little faith? (31) “Therefore don’t be anxious, saying, ‘What will we eat?’, ‘What will we drink?’ or, ‘With what will we be clothed?’ (32) For the Gentiles seek after all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. (33) But seek first God’s Kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things will be given to you as well. (34) **Therefore don’t be anxious for tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Each day’s own evil is sufficient.**”

Proverbs 27:1 “**Don’t boast about tomorrow; for you don’t know what a day may bring.**”

James 4:13-17 “Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow let’s go into this city, and spend a year there, trade, and make a profit.” (14) Whereas you don’t know what your life will be like tomorrow. For what is your life? For you are a vapor that appears for a little time, and then vanishes away. (15) **For you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will both live, and do this or that.”** (16) But now you glory in your boasting. All such boasting is evil. (17) To him therefore who knows to do good, and doesn’t do it, to him it is sin.”

Psalms 118:23-24 “This is Yahweh’s doing. It is marvelous in our eyes. (24) **This is the day that Yahweh has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it!**”

I pray we can all count our blessings, bless those around us, and rejoice before our God this Thanksgiving holiday season. May we recall God’s faithfulness and presence in our lives. Lastly, I pray we can find those around us that need help, encouragement, and the love of God and share it with them.