

# Celebration of Thanksgiving

November 30, 2016

## I. Remember:

### A. Definition (expanded)

**Thank** = to say that one is pleased and grateful for something given or; express gratitude to.

**Thanks** = the act of thanking; expression of gratitude and pleasure for something given.

**Thankful** = feelings or expressing thanks.

synonyms; grateful, obliged

antonyms; thankless, unthankful

contrasted words; unappreciative, ungrateful

**Thankless** = not inclined to give thanks.

synonyms; unappreciative, ungrateful, unthankful

related words: self-centered; careless, heedless, thoughtless; unappreciative, ungrateful, unmindful

contrasted words; appreciative, grateful, mindful; careful, heedful, thoughtful

**Thanksgiving** = the giving of thanks or the expression of thanks; especially the act of giving thanks to God.

### B. Thanksgiving in the Old Testament

1. Hebrew word is "todah", used about 120 times; translated = "thanks," "thankfulness."
2. Thanksgiving is a faith response to God and was central to OT worship.
3. They were thankful for many things and expressed it through: offerings and prayer, worship and music, songs and dance, etc.

### C. Thanksgiving in the New Testament

1. **Thanksgivings is also a faith response** to God in the New Testament. We are to give thanks:

At all times (Ps 34:1)

In everything (1 Thes 5:18)

For all things (Eph 5:20; 1 Co 1:4)

Whenever we eat (1 Tim 4:3-4; Lk 24:30; Ac 27:35; Rom 14:6)

In whatever we do (Col 3:17)

Always (Phil 4:4)

Continually (Heb 13:15)

2. **A lack of thankfulness is a symptom of:**

depravity (Rom 1:20-21)

self-righteousness (Lk 18:11)

unbelief (Lk 17:17-18)

### D. Expressing thankfulness enables spiritual growth

Helps you fight anxiety (Phil 4:6).

Helps you grow spiritually (Col 1:12; 2:6-7).

Helps you receive grace (2Co 4:15)

Helps you receive victory (Ro 7:24-25; Eph 5:4; 2 Cor 2:14; 1Co 15:53-57)  
Helps you worship (Col 3:16).  
Helps you to be discipline and concentrate (Col 4:2).  
Helps you intercede for people, especially leaders (1 Tim 2:1-2).

## II. Furthermore

### A. Expressing (praising God) thankfulness also:

1. We honor God  
Ps 50:23 "He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me;"
2. We exalt God's word and name above life's circumstances.  
Ps 138:2 I will bow down toward Your holy temple and give thanks to Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word according to all Your name.
3. We releases God's victory and ability, over our struggles and inability.  
1 Cor 15:57 but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
2 Cor 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ,

#### Examples:

story of **Jehoshaphat** (2 Chr 20:1-30)  
As the Army gave thanks to the Lord - God gave victory over their enemies

story of **Paul and Silas in prison** (Acts 16:22-27)  
As they gave thanks to the Lord - their chains were broken and all the prison doors opened.

4. We are filled again with the Holy Spirit.  
Eph 5:18-20 ... but be filled with the Spirit, - speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;
5. We experience the presence of God.  
Ps 22:3 You are enthroned (inhabits) upon the praises of Israel (your people), (Ps 75:1; 100:4)

### B. 32 Things to thank God for:

#### For His:

1. Goodness and mercy (Ps 106:1; 107:1; Ps 136:1-3)
2. Indescribable gift (Christ?) (2 Cor 9:15)
3. Forgiveness of sin (Ps 103:1-3; Hos 14:2)
4. Power and deliverance from in-dwelling sin (Rom 7:23-25)
5. Victory (1 Cor 15:57; 2 Cor 2:14)
6. Presence (Ps 75:1)
7. Majesty (Isa 24:14; Ps 96:1, 6).
8. Glory (Ps 138:5; Ezk 3:12)
9. Excellence (Ex 15:7; Ps 148:13)

10. Greatness (1 Chron 16:25; Ps 145:3)
11. Holiness (Ex 15:11; Isa 6:3)
12. Wisdom (Dan 2:20; Jude 25)
13. Power (Ps 21:13)
14. Goodness (Ps 107:8; 118:1; 136:1; Jer 33:11)
15. Mercy (2 Chron 20:21; Ps 89:1; 118:1-4; 136:1-26)
16. Loving-kindness and truth (Ps 138:2)
17. Faithfulness and truth (Isa 25:1)
18. Salvation (Ps 18:46; Isa 35:10; 61:10; Lk 1:68-69)
19. Wonderful works (Ps 89:5; 150:2; Isa 25:1)
20. Comfort, consolation (Ps 42:5; Isa 12:1)
21. Judgment (Ps 101:1)
22. Counsel (Ps 16:7; Jer 32:19)
23. Good promises (1 Kings 8:56)
24. Deliverance (Ps 40:1-3; 124:6)
25. Protection (Ps 28:7; 59:17)
26. Constant preservation (Ps 71:6)

**For:**

27. Healing (Isa 53:5; 1 Pt 2:24; Mt 8:16-17; Ps 103:3; Jas 5:16)
28. Health (3 Jn 2; Ps 41:3)
29. Answering your prayer (Ps 22:24; 116:1-2; 118:21)
30. Hope (Rom 15:13; 2 Cor 1:10; Col 1:27; Eph 1:18)
31. All spiritual (and eternal)4 blessings (Ps 103:2; 116:12; Eph 1:3)
32. All temporal blessings (Ps 68:19 104:1, 14; 136:25-26)

**The following References were used in this study:**

Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary  
 Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible  
 The MacArthur Topical Bible  
 Holman treasury of key Bible words  
 Dictionary of Bible Themes