

Thanks Giving, Part 1

1 Chronicles 16:34 "O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever."

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1. The Command of Thanks Giving: Scripture abounds with commands to give thanks to God.
 - a. 1 Chronicles 16:34 "O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever."
 - i. We give thanks because God is good to us.
 - ii. We give thanks because God is merciful to us.
 - iii. We give thanks because God has extended eternal mercies us.
 - b. Colossians 3:15-17 "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, signing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him"
 - i. Spirit-filled, word-filled believers are commanded to be thankful.
 - ii. Thankfulness is to permeate every aspect of a believer's life.
2. The Example of Thanks Giving: Giving thanks is a sacrificial response God's merciful redemption.
 - a. When Noah exited the ark, he built an altar and sacrificed 1 of every clean animal and 1 of every clean bird and sacrificed them to God (Genesis 8:20-22).
 - i. The sacrifice was an act of thanksgiving for God's mercy upon him and his family.
 - ii. The sacrifice was costly, because Noah sacrificed 1 out of every 7 clean animals and birds.
 - iii. The sacrifice was a sweet-smelling savor to God.
 - b. When Abram returned from rescuing Lot from his captors, Abram worshipped God by tithing ten percent of the spoils of war (Genesis 14:14-20).
 - i. Tithing was Abram's expression of thanksgiving to God for His merciful deliverance.
 - ii. Tithing was Abram's expression of thanksgiving for God's promised blessings.
 - c. Throughout Scripture, giving from a heart of gratitude is to be a vital part of worship.
 - i. Sacrifices are referred to as gifts.
 1. Numbers 18:11 "And this is thine; the heave offering of their gift, with all the wave offerings of the children of Israel:"
 2. Hebrews 5:1 "For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:"
 - ii. The wise men worshipped Christ with gifts.
 1. Matthew 2:11 "And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh."
 - iii. God viewed the Philippians sacrificial support of Paul's ministry as an act of worship.
 1. Philippians 4:18 "But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God."
 - iv. God is well pleased when we are generous.
 1. Hebrews 13:16 "But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."
 - d. Application: When a Christian refuses to be generous, his thanksgiving rings hollow. He is in essence refusing to worship God in this area.
3. The Sacred Obligation of Thanks Giving
 - a. Paul ordered the church to make giving part of the weekly worship service – 1 Corinthians 16:1 "Now concerning the collection for the saints, **as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.**"
 - i. This command extends to all churches of all times.
 - b. Every church is to take an offering every Sunday – 1 Corinthians 16:2 "**Upon the first day of the week** let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."

- c. Every Christian is responsible to participate – 1 Corinthians 16:2 “Upon the first day of the week **let every one of you lay by him in store**, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”
 - i. The entire process of setting aside an offering every week is an act of worship.
 - ii. Tithing is a sacrifice, and for many of us, it requires careful planning and budgeting.
 - iii. Ideally, you should prepare your gift on Saturday so that you are ready to give it on Sunday.
 - iv. Planning what you are going to give just seconds before the plate is passed completely misses the point. Our life should be ordered around giving. Giving shouldn't be an afterthought.
- d. Every Christian is responsible to give proportionately – 1 Corinthians 16:2 “Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, **as God hath prospered him**, that there be no gatherings when I come.
 - i. When Abraham tithed to Melchizedek, he offered the best of the spoils of war (Hebrews 7:4). The Greek word for “spoils” literally means “the top of the heap.” Abraham gave the very best of the spoils to God.
 - ii. The Jews were to give the firstfruits of their crops and herds to God (Exodus 13:12-13, 23:19).
 - iii. The sons of Eli were judged because they took their fill first and then offered the leftovers to God (1 Samuel 2:12-17).
 - 1. God does not want our left-overs!
 - 2. Instead, God wants us to give to Him first, and then pay the bills with what is left.
 - 3. Your finances show who is first in your life, you, or God.
 - iv. Every Christian is to give according to his ability (Acts 11:29).
 - 1. Those who have more should give more both in amount and percentage (2 Corinthians 8:12-15).
 - 2. Though it is not required, some may want to give beyond their ability (2 Corinthians 8:3). The Corinthians did, and they were commended for it.
 - 3. The least that God ever commanded that His people give for the support of His work was 10% (Genesis 14:20; 28:22; Numbers 18:21-24).
 - 4. Though the Christian is not under the Old Testament Law, Christ raised the standard in the New Testament (Matthew 5-7). The tithe in the New Testament age should be merely a starting point. Every Christian should aspire to giving more.
 - 5. Example: R. G. LeTourneau (Mover of Men and Mountains)

Conclusion:

- 1. Has your Thanks Giving been missing the “giving”?
- 2. Have you been giving from what's left over rather than from the top?
- 3. Is your giving sacrificial, or is it an afterthought?
- 4. Do you need to repent for robbing God of first place in your life?
- 5. Does God's redemption and mercy that He has extended to you factor into the way you give to God and His work?