

## Reasons for Gratitude

2 Corinthians 9:15

November 19, 2023

1. Gratitude is the only acceptable response to God's grace – "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15).
  - a. No words can adequately describe God's gift of grace to each of us (9:14).
    - i. God has made His grace abundantly available to us (9:8).
    - ii. God's grace is so bountiful, that we have the privilege of being conduits of that bountiful grace to others (9:9-14)
  - b. Yet, we must take every opportunity to voice our thanksgiving for His abundant grace (9:12, 15).
2. Gratitude is commanded – "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" (Colossians 3:17).
  - a. We are commanded to give thanks in everything.
  - b. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19 "Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the spirit."
3. Gratitude draws us into a more intimate relationship with God – "Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms" (Psalm 95:2).
  - a. Praise brings us into the throne room of God – "But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel" (Psalm 22:3).
  - b. Praise brings us into the presence of God – "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name" (Psalm 100:4).
4. Gratitude accesses God's peace (Philippians 4:6-8).
  - a. Gratitude displaces anxiety – "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" (6).
  - b. God rewards the grateful with peace – "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (7).
  - c. Gratitude is one of the criteria for how we are to think – "Finally brethren, whatsoever things are true...honest...just...pure...of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (8).
5. Gratitude is a diagnostic tool for the condition of our hearts – "Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy name: the upright shall dwell in thy presence" (Psalm 140:13).
  - a. Gratitude is a sign of a heart that is becoming more centered on Christ.
  - b. Ingratitude is a sign of a heart that is become more centered on self.
6. Gratitude is a characteristic of someone who is in fellowship with the Savior through the Holy Spirit – "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;" (Ephesians 5:18-20).
  - a. Those who are filled with the Holy Spirit nurture their walk with God by praise Him in song.
  - b. Those who are filled with the Holy Spirit nurture their walk with God by always giving thanks for all things!
7. Gratitude reflects the heart of Jesus.
  - a. Jesus often expressed His thanksgiving to God (Luke 10:21).
  - b. Jesus thanked God for hearing Him before He raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11:41).
  - c. Jesus thanked God for His food (Mark 8:6-7)
  - d. Jesus thanked God before going to the cross (Luke 22:17; 19; Matthew 26:27; 1 Corinthians 11:24).