



GARDEN CITY C H U R C H

Home Church Guide 11.20.2022

Gratitude & Generosity Part 1

What is gratitude?

Dictionary: the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness.

Hebrew word: confession, praise, thanksgiving

- a. give praise to God
- b. thanksgiving in songs of liturgical worship, hymn of praise
- c. thanksgiving choir or procession or line or company
- d. thank-offering, sacrifice of thanksgiving
- e. confession

Psalms 95:2 Let us come before His presence **with** thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

Thanksgiving is a command and sacrifice

Leviticus 7:12 If he offers it for a thanksgiving, then he shall offer, with the sacrifice of thanksgiving, unleavened cakes mixed with oil, unleavened wafers anointed with oil, or cakes of blended flour mixed with oil.

Psalms 50:14 Offer to God thanksgiving, And pay your vows to the Most High.

Thanksgiving is a choice

Psalms 116:17 I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving, And will call upon the name of the Lord.

Phil 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, 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 minds through Christ Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTION: When you think of thanksgiving in your life, what are the things you find it easiest to express gratitude for? In what areas of your life right now are you struggling the most to express gratitude? Why do you think that is?

Those in the deepest valleys, the darkest of nights, the most difficult situations are in prime position to benefit the most from intentionally lifting up to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving!

A lifestyle of gratitude is evidence of spiritual maturity

Colossians 3:12-15 Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; **13** bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. **14** But above all these things put on 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**.

Thanksgiving magnifies God in our lives

Psalms 69:30 I will praise the name of God with a song, And will magnify Him with thanksgiving.

Increasing gratitude in our life

- 1. Take time to Consider the great things God has done for you.**
1 Sam 12:24 Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.
- 2. Proactively engage in expressing thanksgiving for God's character and nature. Choose one characteristic a day that you are going to confess gratitude toward.**
Psalms 107:1 Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for *He is good!* For His [a]mercy *endures* forever.
- 3. 1 Thess 5:16-18** Rejoice always, pray without ceasing (consistent fellowship with God), in everything give thanks (not when the struggle is over but even in the midst of it give thanks).

Jesus modeled a life of thanksgiving

Matthew 15:36 And He took the seven loaves and the fish and gave **thanks**, broke *them* and gave *them* to His disciples; and the disciples *gave* to the multitude (*Jesus never prayed for the bread and fish to multiply....He gave thanks!*)

Jesus pays attention to who gives thanks to Him.

Read Luke 17:11-19***

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Do we come back and intentionally say thank you when God moves in our lives and answers our prayers? If we tolerate ingratitude in our hearts for Jesus, the one most worthy of our thanksgiving, what makes us think we will steward consistent grateful hearts towards anything else!? What do you need to go back to Jesus and express thankfulness for?

End by reading this scripture

Revelation 7:11-12 *All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, **Thanksgiving** and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."*

Pray for the Spirit of God to increase gratitude in your hearts starting with increasing your gratitude for Jesus Christ!