

Thanksgiving Message November 19, 2023

We are called to have a lifestyle of thanksgiving.

Colossians 3:15-16

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Colossians 3:15–16 (The Message)

"Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the word of Christ—the message—have the run of the house"

The things we feed are the things that will grow.

Thankfulness is a choice.

"Happiness can't be traveled to, owned, earned, worn or consumed. We choose it. It is the spiritual experience of living every minute with love, grace, and gratitude."

Jimmy Evans

Psalm 100:4

⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

We can't embrace God's grace without an attitude of gratitude.

The goal of our maturity as a Christian is not the elimination of turmoil and conflict in our lives, but to change our response to these problems.

Thankfulness changes our focus from receiving to giving.



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"Gratitude is an emotion expressing appreciation for what one has—as opposed to, for example, a consumer-driven emphasis on what one wants."

Psychology Today

Thankfulness breeds contentment.

Matthew 10:8

8...Freely you have received; freely give.

Thankfulness makes what we have - enough.

Luke 9:12-17

¹² Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to him and said, "Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here."

¹³ He replied, "You give them something to eat."

They answered, "We have only five loaves of bread and two fish—unless we go and buy food for all this crowd." 14 (About five thousand men were there.)

But he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each." ¹⁵ The disciples did so, and everyone sat down. ¹⁶ Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people. ¹⁷ They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

Thankfulness brings us back to the moment.

Thankfulness gets us in the right mindset to pray.

Philippians 4:6

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

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