

Give God Thanksgiving!



"6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. 7 Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7 NLT

- **What are you thankful for?**
"Thanksgiving Day I fear, If one the solemn truth must touch,
Is celebrated, not so much —To thank the Lord for blessings
o'er, As for the sake of getting more."
- A sinful trigger for the downfall of humanity is ingratitude. *"Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship Him as God or even give Him thanks... As a result, their minds became dark and confused."* Rom. 1:21 NLT

Old Testament Theme:

1 Chronicles 16:8-9 NLT *"Give thanks to the LORD and proclaim His greatness. Let the whole world know what He has done."*
Psalms 100 "Psalm of Thanksgiving"

New Testament Theme:

Philippians 4:4-9 The Peace Chapter of the NT
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NLT *"16 Always be joyful. 17 Never stop praying. 18 Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus."* (Ephesians 5:18b-20)

The Central Lesson Always Thank God for Everything!

Definition of "Thanksgiving" - The Hebrew word is (*todah*); in Greek (*ευχαριστια*), "Eucharistia" literally means: to "Thank or Grace well" — "give freely in a gracious manner." We should always be "well pleasing" to God and others.

I. **GIVE THANKS** IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES

- **Be Spiritually Informed**
Eph. 5:17 *"Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do."* (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 1 Cor. 3:19a, not the world's wisdom.)
- **Learn By Obeying Christ's Commands**
Jn. 7:16-17 *"...Anyone who wants to do the will of God will know whether My teaching is from God or is merely My own."* (Mt. 28:20)
- **Be Filled With The Holy Spirit**
Eph. 5:18-19 *"...be filled with the Holy Spirit,"* (1 Thes. 5:19 *"don't stifle the Holy Spirit"*)

II. **REJOICE** IN EVERYTHING

- **Peace Within Troubling Circumstances - Eph. 4:2-3** *"Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace."*
James 1:2 *"Consider it (trial and trouble) an opportunity for great joy."*
John 16:33 *"so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."*
- **God's Peace Experienced Beyond Understanding - Phil. 4:7**
Phil. 4:7 *"...His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."*
Jn. 14:27 *"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give."*
- **Peace In Your Attitude - Phil. 4:5** *"Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon."*
"Considerate" 4:5 (*spirit of sweet reasonableness*)

III. **REJECT ANXIETY** — TRUST THE LORD

- A. **Right FOCUS. Don't Worry!**
ILLUSTRATION: Thermometers vs. Thermostats
2 Cor. 7:11-12 "Worldly grief" vs. "Godly grief"
Phil. 4:6 *"Don't worry about anything"*
Prov. 3:5 *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart,"*
- B. **Right THINKING.**
Phil. 4:8 *"Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise."*
4:9 *"Then the God of peace will be with you."*
ILLUSTRATION: Neh. 8:10 *"...Go and celebrate with a feast...Don't be dejected and sad (grieve), for the joy of the LORD is your strength."*
- C. **Right LIVING.** (Paul's example in prison in Rome)
Phil. 4:9, 11-13 *"Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me... heard from me and saw me doing."*

IV. **PRAY WITH THANKSGIVING** ABOUT EVERYTHING

- Phil 4:6 *"Pray about everything."* (Needs, Praise for Benefits Psalms 103:2 NIV *"forget not all His benefits."*)
1 Timothy 2:1 *"I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them."*

Conclusion

Always Thank God for Everything!

Action Steps: ► Receive Christ as your Savior. ► As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ► Invite someone to next Sunday's Bible study. ► Attend a small group. ► Pray for friends that need Jesus. ► Read Acts 16:16-40. What do you learn about being thankful in tough times?