



Why Are You Thankful?

Lesson 2

SELAH: *Do I live thankfully before the Lord EVERY DAY or just on a holiday?*

*How did the **ThanksLiving Assessment** go?*

Our hearts are **HARDWIRED** for giving thanks to God, but our pride **REBELS** against it. *Romans 1:20-23*

How Accurately Are You Viewing Yourself?

"Proud people don't give thanks!"

The proud are complainers who think they are **DESERVING**.



PROUD HEARTS HATE the MESSAGE of CREATION and **REJECT** the CHRIST of REDEMPTION!

The humble give thanks knowing they are **UNDERSERVING**.



HUMBLE HEARTS REPENT before their CREATOR and **GIVE THANKS** to HIM through CHRIST JESUS!

For What Am I Thankful?

*When it comes to thankfulness, we are often **CONFLICTED**.*

1. Torn between the **SEEN** and the **UNSEEN**. *Ephesians 1:3; 15-23*
2. Torn between the **EARTHLY** and the **HEAVENLY**. *2Corinthians 4:17-18*
3. Torn between the **GIFTS** and the **GIVER**. *James 1:17*

Why Am I Thankful?

*Is my thankfulness based on life's ever-changing circumstances or our **UNCHANGING** God?*

1. Am I "too thankful" for **CONTROL** versus God's unchanging sovereignty?

*What happens when life isn't organized? Isn't controllable?
Are we no longer thankful for God's sovereignty?*

Job 1:21

2. Am I "too thankful" for **SUCCESS** versus God's *unchanging goodness*?

*What happens when we don't succeed?
Our kids fall short? Are we no longer thankful for God's goodness?
Philippians 1:12-18*

3. Am I "too thankful" for **ACCEPTANCE** versus God's *unchanging love*?

*What happens when our friends and families disappoint?
Are we no longer thankful for God's love?
John 17:26*

4. Am I "too thankful" for **POSSESSIONS** versus God's *unchanging provision*?

*But what happens if those things are withheld from us? Stolen from us
Are we no longer thankful for God's gifts?
Philippians 4:10-13*

5. Am I "too thankful" for **COMFORT** versus God's *unchanging blessings*?

*What happens when those comforting things are removed from our life?
Are we no longer thankful for God's blessings?
2Corinthians 4:7-12, 15; 11:23-28*

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| • whipped with 39 lashes (5 diff times) | • danger in the city |
| • beaten with rods (3 different times) | • danger in the wilderness |
| • pummeled with stones (1 time) | • danger at sea |
| • shipwrecked (3 times) | • danger from false brothers |
| • adrift at sea (one night, one day) | • toil and hardship |
| • journeys (frequent) | • sleepless nights (many) |
| • danger from rivers | • hungry and thirsty (often) |
| • danger from robbers | • cold and exposed |
| • danger from his own people | • the pressure of anxiety for all the churches (daily) |
| • danger from Gentiles | |

*"Thanksgiving is a radical act of allegiance. Our gratitude exposes our true affections.
Where we direct our thanks is a clear indicator of what we believe." – Daniel DeWitt*

"A saint is one who exaggerates what the world neglects." – G. K. Chesterton

*"We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us,
like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine
what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased." – C. S. Lewis*

David's Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Temple Offerings – 1Chronicles 29:10-28

ThanksLiving Reflection

- In what ways have I begun to think I am *entitled* to the physical blessings God so freely provides me?
- What can I do to recognize God's earthly gifts in a way that keeps me humble rather than prideful ("too thankful")?
- What can I do to recognize God's spiritual gifts in Christ Jesus and increase my gratitude for the unseen?
- Why is it often easier for me to celebrate worldly things than eternal things, the earthly rather than the heavenly?
- How can I strengthen my passions for "infinite joy" over "mud pies" (See the C. S. Lewis quote)? Am I reading the Bible and treasuring time spent in the presence of God on a consistent basis? (The Advent Devotional is a great way to end the year and begin the New Year!)
- Read David's "**Prayer of Thanksgiving**" in **1Chronicles 29:10-28**. Realize that Jesus Christ is the greater and better Son of David who, in His incarnation, became the Living Temple of God's Presence – *He is truly God and truly Man full of grace and truth!* And He has called us out of the world to make us living stones in His living temple, the Church. Now pray David's prayer of thanksgiving back to God with a heart *full of joy and thanksgiving!*