



Pastor-Teacher | Chris Regas | 11.13.2022

l'm Not

DESERVING

His GRACE

Meets My

Needs

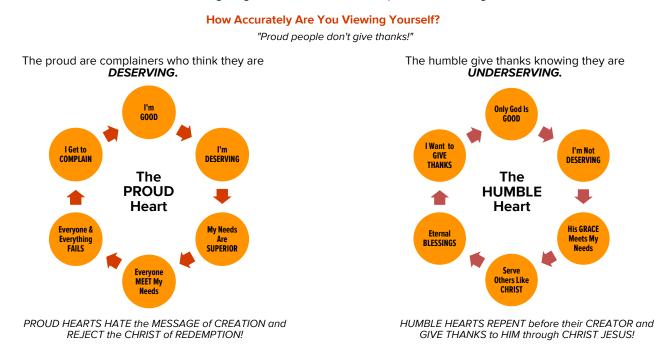
Why Are You Thankful?

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



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
- Torn between the EARTHLY and the HEAVENLY. 2Corinthians 4:17-18 2.
- 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?

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

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

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

- whipped with 39 lashes (5 diff times)
- **beaten** with rods (3 different times)
- **pummeled** with stones (1 time)
- **shipwrecked** (3 times)
- adrift at sea (one night, one day)
- journeys (frequent)
- danger from **rivers**
- danger from **robbers**
- danger from his own people
- danger from Gentiles

- danger in the city
- danger in the wilderness
- danger **at sea**
- danger from false brothers
- toil and hardship
- sleepless nights (many)
- hungry and thirsty (often)
- cold and exposed
- the pressure of anxiety for all the churches (daily)

"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!