

“Grateful Heart In All Things”

By Mrs. Sojourner



A favorite worship song written by Don Meon starts out with the words: “Give thanks, with a grateful heart...”

Notes:

We Believers have so much for which we can be grateful. Some of us can quickly, without much consideration run down a list of reasons we have to be grateful. My question today is do we give thanks with a grateful heart or do we just know a list of good things God has done for us that we prattle out when the subject of thankfulness or gratitude comes into conversation?

⁶So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. Colossians 2:6-7 (NIV)

Walking out life with a grateful heart is an issue I have had to address in my own life. While considering how to change my heart to be grateful to God in all circumstances, I heard The Sojourner’s words in my mind, “Just make a decision.” These words reminded me that every change starts with

a decision.

After making this decision, Paul’s words here give us some actions that can help us to live with a grateful heart.

[a]

¹⁷And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17 (NIV)

²Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. Colossians 4:2 (NIV)

The more we focus on being thankful, the easier it becomes, and the more reasons we will find for which to be thankful.

²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe Hebrews 12:28 (NIV)

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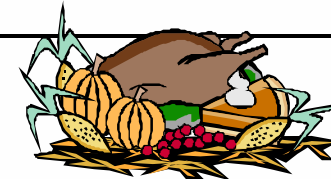
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Vol. 6 No. 36 November 18, 2007

...with The Sojourner

“Grace And Thanks” (Teaching Sketch)

! Corinthians 1:4-9



When God blesses mankind it is an act of grace.^[1] Grace,

when applied to the Believer, reaches far beyond the common grace experienced by all people. The common grace we would readily identify as life and the environment in which all live out their “natural” lives. All and any grace is a gift, an unearned gift.

This common grace is spoken of in Romans, Chapter 1 as “God’s invisible qualities” which mankind has been aware of since creation. It is man’s pride which prevents thankfulness to God or others.

²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly

seen, being understood from what has been made, so that

men are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Romans 1:20-22

Envious People

There are people who are envious of what others have and are able to do, who, rather than thanking God (intercessory thanks) for others or their blessing, actually become involved in criticism due to their own covetous hearts.

These people are often found heaping sarcasm and judgment on those who have gifts and blessings they themselves do not possess. They will

Notes:
[1] charis khar'-ece ; graciousness (as gratifying), of manner or act; especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including gratitude):— acceptable, benefit, favour, gift, grace (-ious), joy liberality, pleasure, thank (-s, -worthy).
G#’s are Strong’s

Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

Scripture:

1 Corinthians 1:4-9 (NIV)

Thanksgiving

⁴ I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵ For in him you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge—⁶ because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. ⁷ Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸ He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

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criticize others handling of their wealth, beauty, fame, or whatever they, themselves, do not possess. This is great sin and if not repented of will actually heap destruction upon their own heads.

Thanks For Others

The Apostle Paul actually thanked God for the grace of God given to the Believers to whom he ministered. Paul was not only thankful for what he had but also for what others had as well.

Therefore, You Do Not Lack!

Those who are covetous toward others for their gifts and blessings do not understand in God’s Kingdom there is no lack as it says in verse 7.

God Is Faithful!

It is God who gives us the strength we need to use our gifts. God is faithful. Give Him thanks!!!

Just so you’ll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during “Praise & Worship” (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

