

Dear Friend,

It is November and we will soon be celebrating the Thanksgiving Holiday. I am so grateful to live in a nation that has a national holiday set aside for the sole purpose of giving God our heartfelt gratitude for all of the blessings He has bestowed upon us.

Having a thankful heart is very important to God ... and for our own wellbeing. First of all, He is completely worthy of our thanksgiving and our praise. God is good. He is always good. There should never be a day when we do not offer up our heartfelt praise and thanksgiving to Him.

Having an unthankful heart can lead to devastating consequences. The apostle Paul made mention of that ungrateful heart condition when he wrote to the Romans about how mankind had fallen away from knowing God. Paul wrote,

Rom 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Notice that at one time, they knew God. But they chose not to glorify Him as God. Think of that ... they knew Him. They knew He was good and that His Word was true and completely trustworthy. Yet they chose to rebel against Him anyway. Why? Partly because they just took His goodness and His blessing for granted. "Neither were they thankful."

On the other hand, when Paul was writing to the Colossians,

Col 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

It is wonderful to love God and obey His commandments, to let the peace of God rule in your heart, and to always keep an attitude of being thankful to Him for His many blessings. Here is another one of my favorite verses on the subject of thanksgiving to God,

Php 4:6 Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God. AMPLIFIED BIBLE

You mean it is possible to live a life free from anxiety and worry? To many people, that seems impossible, but the key to living that life is contained within the very same verse. "In every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests) ... notice ... WITH THANKSGIVING, continue to make your wants known to God.

Why with thanksgiving? Because you know Him. You know He is good. You know Him as your heavenly Father, not just as God. You know He loves you. You know He hears and answers your prayers. So when you make requests to Him in prayer, you immediately being to thank Him for the answer. Remember again what Jesus said about our requests to our heavenly Father,

Mat 7:7-8 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: (8) For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

How few people actually believe what Jesus said, "Ask, and it shall be given you." How simple. Mankind has made prayer so complicated, but Jesus made it so simple. Ask and you shall receive. If you believe that is true ... you will begin thanking the Father for the answer just as soon as you pray the prayer. Even before you see the manifestation of the answer, you can have a heart full of thanksgiving because you know your heavenly Father hears and answers your prayers.

Psa 34:8 O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man *that* trusteth in him.

As we enter this holiday season, let us be reminded to make our national Thanksgiving holiday a true expression of our gratitude to our heavenly Father for all of His goodness to us. Then, let us endeavor to keep that thankful heart attitude every single day of the year.

Your friend and co-laborer,

GARY