

THANKFUL

Let's face it: some days, it is hard to remember to be thankful. Despite that difficulty, God's Word does not allow for ungratefulness and ingratitude to coexist comfortably with a life of faith and a heart set upon Christ. Just take a few verses as examples...

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God (Colossians 3:16).

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving (Colossians 4:2).

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

Not only is thankfulness commanded, but ungratefulness is a dangerous sin leading to more sin (Romans 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:1-5). No matter the situation or circumstance, we can give thanks to God...and we should thank him.

If we look at the blessings of salvation found in Christ, we find numerous things for which we can be thankful. Jesus brings us from spiritual death into spiritual life (John 3:3-8; Colossians 2:13). We are declared "not guilty" eternally by God (Romans 5:18-19; 2 Corinthians 5:21). The wrath of God toward us was satisfied fully by Christ's sacrifice (Romans 3:24-26; 1 John 2:2; 1 John 4:9-11). God reconciles us to himself; he brings us into a right relationship through Christ (Ephesians 2:12; Romans 5:8-11). We are redeemed or "bought back" from sin by the blood of Christ (1 Timothy 2:5-6; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19).

God adopts us into his family as one of his children (1 John 3:1; Galatians 4:5; Ephesians 1:5). We are set apart to be transformed more and more into the likeness of Christ (Romans 8:29; John 17:17; 1 John 3:2-3). And one day, we will be made perfect in every way and will be separated forever from all sin (1 Corinthians 15:42-44; Philipians 3:20-21).

Prayer prompt: Read Psalm 111. As you read the works and attributes of God listed in the psalm, stop and thank God for them. Consider the works of God in your own life, think about how he has shown his power, protection and providence to you and your family and give him thanks.

*Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!*

- 1 Chronicles 16:8

*We give thanks to God not because of how
we feel but because of who he is.*

- Ann Voskamp

*The more I look at the times "thanks" is mentioned
in God's Word - the more I notice this giving of
thanks has nothing to do with my circumstances
and everything to do with my God.*

- Jenni Hunt