

Spirit Filled Thanksgiving

Ephesians 5:17-20

November 18 2007

Summary: One of the vital signs of a healthy Spirit filled church, as well as for us as individuals is an attitude of thanksgiving. We should always be giving thanks to God based on the solid truth about Him that we enjoy from His Word. We should be thanking the Lord *after* His blessings, *before* receiving His blessings, as well as *during* all of our circumstances. We will always be giving thanks; such is our eternal destiny as Believers, for He is most worthy; O so worthy!

1. A. Why should we give thanks to God according the following Scriptures?
I Thessalonians 5:18, II Thessalonians 1:3

- B. The point was made that thanks is based upon solid truth; that is, real facts from the Scriptures that we can trust. What are some of those?
Isaiah 53:3-12, Romans 8:1, 15-16, 28-32, I Corinthians 15:1-8, Philippians 4:11-13, I John 4:4

- C. How easy it is for us to grumble about our circumstances and to be discontent about things we don't like. But what about all that God HAS done for us; should we not give careful thought about those and truly express gratitude to Him?
Philippians 4:6-8

2. A. The point was also made that we should give thanks *after* God blesses us, *before* He blesses us, and *during* the time of all our circumstances which He allows. What are some examples?
Daniel 6:5-10, Luke 17:12-19, John 11:40-45,

- B. It is crucial to thank the Lord for all that He has done for us. Having this mindset of gratitude is one exercise of our faith, but how does thanking Him *during* and *beforehand* express a whole different level of faith?
Matthew 8:8-10, 15:28

- C. God is so deserving of our thanks, is He not? But do you? Have you made a list of all His goodness towards you, just out of gratitude? Take a closer look at Philippians 4:6-8. How would thanking God *as you ask in prayer* have an impact on your faith? How much room is there for discouragement or depression if you are obedient to these verses?

3. A. Getting back to our main passage of Scripture, in what fashion is an attitude of gratitude a trademark of being Spirit filled?
Ephesians 5:17-20

- B. Because it the obvious will of God, there is a sense in which *we will always be giving thanks to God*, and giving Him the glory accordingly. What is the relationship between giving Him thanks and giving Him glory?
Revelation 4:1-11, 7:10-12, 11:15-17
- C. The worthiness of our God to receive thanks and glory, deeply out of our hearts, is more than we can ever dream or imagine. We don't have to wait; we can do this today and always, on a continual basis. Why don't we start right now?
Psalm 86:11-13, Hebrews 13:15