

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Grateful People of God

Bill Brinkworth

“Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. 2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. 3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. 4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. 5 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.”

Psalms 100:1-5

Many biblical leaders were grateful for all the Lord had done in their lives and for their country, as we should be. Some appreciative people in the Bible were:

- The priests of the Old Testament continually showed their thankfulness for God’s goodness to them and to Israel:

“And he appointed certain of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, and to record, and to thank

*and praise the LORD God of Israel.” I Chronicles 16:4
Also: I Chronicles 23:30.*

- An unidentified psalmist in Psalm 100:4 was thankful:
“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.” Ps. 100:4
- Hezekiah was thankful.
“Then Hezekiah answered and said, Now ye have consecrated yourselves unto the LORD, come near and bring sacrifices and thank offerings into the house of the LORD. And the congregation brought in sacrifices and thank offerings; and as many as were of a free heart burnt offerings.” II Chron. 29:31 Also: II Chron. 33:16.
- Daniel was thankful.
“I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter.” Dan. 2:23
- Jesus, God’s only son, was thankful.
“At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.” Mat. 11:25 Also: Luke:10:21.
- Paul was thankful.
“First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.” Rom. 1:8

“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.” I Thes. 2:13

“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;” I Tim. 1:12 Also: Rom. 7:25, I Cor. 1:4, Php. 1:3.

A child of God has so much for which to be thankful. No matter who we are, or what we are experiencing, we need to remember His goodness to us and be grateful. We need to be appreciative every day, not just once a year.

Are you grateful for God’s goodness? You might find yourself in a valley right now or facing trials, but count your blessings. You could be lying in a cancer ward with only a short time to live, but most likely you are not. You could be jobless, and wondering where your next meal is coming from, but most likely you are not. You could have some disability that limits you from a “normal” lifestyle, but most likely you do not. Some may even have one of the above prognosis on your life, but it could always be worse. Be grateful, as many of the Bible’s heroes mentioned above were. Even going through hard trials, they expressed their gratefulness to God. Be thankful always for what you do have and God’s underserved kindness in your life.

“Be thankful you're still above ground.”

What Can be Learned

Spencer

Plato, looking through the dim spectacles of nature gave thanks unto God for three things:

1. that God had created him a man.
2. that he was born a Grecian, not a barbarian.
3. that not only was he a Grecian, but he was a philosopher. He was grateful for who he was.

But Christians, that are better bred and taught, turn the stream of their thanks that:

1. God hath created them after His own image;
2. That He hath called them out of the common crowd of this world, and made them Christians;
3. And more especially, that amongst those that bear the name of Christ. He hath made them faithful ones, like a few quick-sighted men amongst a world of blind ones.

“Though one of the husbandman's fruit trees doth wither away, he heweth not down therefore all the other trees. Instead, he regardeth and cares for the others so much that they gain the fruits which the others lost. Even so learn thou in adversity, with such goods as are left thee to comfort and refresh thyself again and more. “ — *Wermullerus, 1551*

Grateful to the Provider

Spencer

If an exhausted and needy traveler should rest at the foot of a castle, and someone from the walls above should

reach him a supply for all his needs, could he keep from looking up to see who had relieved him? So, it should be for the Christian who lives daily out of the alms-basket of God's providence. He should constantly look with thankfulness to that Father who liberally supplies all his need.

“Thank God every morning when you get up that you have something to do that day which must be done, whether you like it or not. Being forced to work, and forced to do your best, will breed in you temperance and self-control, diligence and strength of will, cheerfulness and contentedness, and a hundred virtues which the idle never know.” - Kingsley

Still Appreciative

S. Martin

The heath in the desert wants rain far more than the water-lily. But let the showers come down upon the heath in the desert, there is no motion, no sign that the shower is welcomed, or is working. On the other hand, the moment the rain begins to fall upon the water-lily, though it is rooted in water and has its chief element in water, its leaves seem to be clapping their “hands”; and the whole plant rejoices in the falling of the rain. A Christian, who has his needs and wants met by his heavenly Father should be as constantly grateful as that water lily.

“Gratitude is the heart's memory.” — French Proverb

Ingratitude

O. W. Holmes, 1892

If one should give me a dish of sand and tell me there were particles of iron in it, I might look with my eyes for them and search for them with my clumsy fingers and be unable to find them. Give me a magnet and let me sweep the dish, and see how it would draw to itself the most visible particles by the mere power of attraction.

The unthankful heart, like my finger in the sand, discovers none of God's mercies. However, let the thankful heart sweep through the day, and as the magnet finds the iron, so it will find in every hour some heavenly blessings; only the iron in God's sand is gold to a believer's life.

“Some people complain because God put thorns on roses, while others praise Him for putting roses among thorns.” — *Unknown*