

NEWSLETTER

"DON'T THINK OF
THE THINGS
YOU DIDN'T GET
AFTER
PRAYING,
THINK OF THE
COUNTLESS
BLESSINGS GOD
GAVE YOU WITHOUT
ASKING."

ESSENTIAL VERSES



"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
His love endures forever."
—Psalm 107:1



Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."
—Luke 17:11-19



"The Lord is my shepherd; I lack nothing."
—Psalm 23:1

THE IMPORTANCE OF GRATITUDE

As we gather to celebrate Thanksgiving, we are reminded of the importance of gratitude in our lives. The Bible speaks often about the power of a thankful heart, urging us to recognize the goodness of God and to give thanks in all circumstances. Gratitude not only draws us closer to God but also helps us see His blessings in every season of life. As we reflect on this newsletter, let us be reminded that gratitude is more than a feeling—it is a way of life. It is an act of faith, a declaration of trust in God's goodness and provision. Whether we are celebrating abundance or walking through trials, we are called to be thankful.

May this Thanksgiving be a time to:

- Thank God for His faithfulness and provision.
- Recognize His daily blessings.
- Rejoice in the gift of salvation.
- Choose gratitude in all circumstances.

"Let us come before Him with thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song."

—Psalm 95:2

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."

—Psalm 100:4

Happy Thanksgiving, and may your heart overflow with gratitude for all that God has done in your life!

1. Gratitude as a Response to God's Faithfulness

One of the clearest examples of gratitude in Scripture is seen in the story of the Ten Lepers (Luke 17:11-19). Jesus healed ten men with leprosy, but only one returned to thank Him. Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?" (Luke 17:17). The one who returned was a Samaritan who recognized the magnitude of what Jesus had done for him. This story challenges us to reflect on how often we take God's blessings for granted. In the hustle of daily life, it's easy to forget to thank Him. But a thankful heart leads to a deeper relationship with God and helps us to remain mindful of His love and grace.

Application: Take 2 minutes to thank God. Let yourself be like the one leper who returned to thank Jesus, recognizing that every good gift comes from God. "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights." (James 1:17)

2. Thanksgiving for Provision

The Bible calls us to give thanks not only for the big moments but also for God's daily provision. Psalm 23:1 says, "The Lord is my shepherd; I lack nothing." God is our provider, meeting our needs with both physical and spiritual sustenance. In the wilderness, the Israelites were provided manna from heaven—an act of divine provision that they could not have earned or expected. Yet, even then, they sometimes forgot to thank God for His faithfulness. May we never forget to thank God for all his small and large provisions.

Application: Take 2 minutes today to reflect on how God has provided for you—whether in the abundance of your material needs or in the quiet, unseen ways He sustains you. "Give us today our daily bread." (Matthew 6:11)

3. Gratitude for God's Love and Salvation

Above all, our hearts should overflow with gratitude for the gift of salvation. In Ephesians 1:7, Paul writes, "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace." Through Christ, we are reconciled to God, and this is the greatest reason for thanksgiving. In Luke 7:36-50, we see a woman who pours expensive perfume on Jesus' feet and wipes them with her hair. Jesus praises her for her great love because she understood the depth of the forgiveness she had received. Her gratitude for God's mercy transformed her life.

Application: Reflect for 5 minutes on the incredible gift of salvation you have received through Jesus. Let your gratitude for His grace shape the way you live and love others. "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15)

4. Gratitude in All Circumstances

The Apostle Paul reminds us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." True gratitude is not dependent on our circumstances but on our understanding of who God is. Even in seasons of hardship, God is still good, and we are called to thank Him, trusting that He is at work in all things for our good. Consider the story of Job, a man who faced unimaginable suffering, yet declared, "The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised" (Job 1:21). Job's response to loss was one of worship, recognizing that God is worthy of praise regardless of the situation.

Application: This Thanksgiving, choose to thank God not just for the good things, but also in the difficult times. Trust that He is working for your good, even when you cannot see it.