

WHY GIVE THANKS?

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“Jerry Bridges Thankfulness to God is a recognition that God in His goodness and faithfulness has provided for us and cared for us, both physically and spiritually. It is a recognition that we are totally dependent upon Him; that all that we are and have comes from God.” — Jerry Bridges

Three reasons to give thanks . . .

I. EVERYTHING COMES FROM GOD

James 1:17,18 — Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow. He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession.

1 Chronicles 29:10-16 — Therefore David blessed the LORD in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: “Blessed are you, O LORD, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. 13 And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name. “But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. For we are strangers before you and sojourners, as all our fathers were. Our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding. O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own.

Psalms 107:8,15,21,31 — Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man!

Daniel 2:23 — “To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for you have given me wisdom and might, and have now made known to me what we asked of you, for you have made known to us the king’s matter.”

Daniel 4:33 — “Immediately the word concerning Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled; and he was driven away from mankind and began eating grass like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair had grown like eagles’ *feathers and his nails like birds’ claws.*”

Daniel 4:37 — “Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride.”

II. FOR THIS IS GOD’S WILL

1 Thessalonians 5:18 — Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

Colossians 2:6,7 — Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Colossians 3:15 — And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

1 Peter 4:19 — Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

Hebrews 12:28 (NLT) — Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping him with holy fear and awe.

III. IT IS THE RIGHT RESPONSE

Psalms 69:30 — I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving.

Psalms 95:2 — Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

Psalms 100:4 — Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!

1 Peter 3:21 — And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 7:11,12 — And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

James 4:10 — Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Proverbs 22:4 — The reward for humility and fear of the Lord is riches and honor and life.

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