

Gratitude is an offering precious in the sight of God, and it is one that the poorest of us can make and be not poorer but richer for having made it.

A. W. Tozer

God wants us to know that when we have Him we have everything.

A. W. Tozer

Calvary's love melts us down, crucifies our lusts, weans our hearts from the love of the world, and causes us to have heart affection for the matchless Christ.

W. E. Bell

Worship is humble and glad; worship forgets itself in remembering God; worship celebrates the truth as God's truth, not its own. True worship doesn't put on a show or make a fuss; true worship isn't forced, isn't half-hearted, doesn't keep looking at its watch, doesn't worry what the person in the next pew may be doing. True worship is open to God, adoring God, waiting for God, trusting God even in the dark.

N. T. Wright

We ought to give thanks for all fortune: if it is good, because it is good, if bad, because it works in us patience, humility and the contempt of this world and the hope of our eternal country.

C.S. Lewis

When we bless God for mercies, we usually prolong them. When we bless God for miseries, we usually end them. Praise is the honey of life which a devout heart extracts from every bloom of providence and grace.

C.H. Spurgeon

An evidence that our will has been broken is that we begin to thank God for that which once seemed so bitter, knowing that His will is good and that, in His time and in His way, He is able to make the most bitter waters sweet.

Nancy Leigh DeMoss

A proud man is seldom a grateful man, for he never thinks he gets as much as he deserves.

Henry Ward Beecher

Gratitude Matters
Ephesians 5:15-21; Psalm 73

Introduction: There are many definitions of *worship*, and there are many *elements* that go into worship. Today we focus on just one: *gratitude*. Paul calls us to the *giving of thanks* 24 times in his writings and always describes it as the constant attitude that must surround us at all times, in all situations. Without *gratitude*, our every act of worship is seen as hypocrisy, and our greatest acts of service as mere man pleasing. Gratitude matters!

Gratitude: What is it?

The attitude of gratitude
The action of thanksgiving

The Place of Gratitude

Ephesians 5:15-21

Living: *walk ... as wise*

Learning: *understand what the will of the Lord is*

Loving: *be filled with the Spirit*

- *Be verbal*

- *Be joyful*

- ***Be thankful***

- *Be accountable*

The Priority of Gratitude

Ephesians 5:20

Directed at God

In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ

For all things

All the time

Living the Impossible

Psalm 73

A time for reflection ...

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Kids Notes

Gratitude Matters

The Questions

Answer the following questions. The answers are on the back.

1. *Thanksgiving, as an action, is:*

- A. the outward expression of internal gratitude.
- B. how we show that our hearts are grateful.
- C. to be an everyday thing for Christ-followers.
- D. all of the above.

2. *Saying "thank you" where there is no real gratitude:*

- A. is really to be a hypocrite.
- B. means we need a change of heart.
- C. should never be the case for a Christ-follower.
- D. all of the above.

3. *Paul told us that we should be thankful:*

- A. to God the Father, through Jesus Christ.
- B. for all things.
- C. at all times.
- D. all of the above

For Family Discussion: *Why should all "thanks" ultimately be directed to God"*

Space to Doodle

Did You Hear It?

Mark the times you hear these key words:

THANKS _____	TOTAL: _____
GRATITUDE _____	_____
HEART _____	_____
FATHER _____	_____
EVERYTHING _____	_____
ACTION _____	_____

Word Search

Find the following words in the scramble below. Letters are sometimes used twice, and words may go around corners.

THANKS GRATITUDE HEART FATHER EVERYTHING ACTION
 ATTITUDE FAITH GRACE FREE HYPOCRITE LIAR TRUTH ERROR
 WORK HOLIDAY PLEASURE PAIN SPEAKING SINGING LOVING
 LIVING LEARNING NORTHPOINT SCHOOL PARENTS

G A G O C Y H L I L N L K E P A C
 R N T R T H A N K S J O R M L C I
 P A I T A A Z D Q L S O O K E T J
 D J I H I C U F I T D H W D A I I
 E R P L T T E E N L F C T Y S O V
 P X G R N Y U E E S O S N T U N J
 E B A I E L R D P F W H I P R G A
 H E A R O A U E E H A O O V E N W
 H P R V P T A W V B Q T P P A I T
 S O I Y I K J C R E J D H U U G R
 R N Z T I H Y P O C R I T E X N U
 G B A N N G N I V I L O R H R I T
 W R G F A I T H E E R F O N I S H
 G Q W L W L M S C G N I N R A E L
 X A V V P I V J V N X I R A L W V