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**Thanksgiving: The Power of a Thankful Heart**

by: Debbie Przybylski (crosswalk.com)

*"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

It is not always easy to give thanks, but this is the very thing we must do in order to see God's will accomplished in our lives. This is how we move into higher realms of faith for ourselves, for our city, and for our nation.

Thanksgiving has great power to bring joy and break the power of the enemy. Whenever you give thanks to God, despite the most difficult circumstances, the enemy loses a big battle in your life. When you give thanks in the midst of difficulty, you bring pleasure to God's heart. He is looking for Christians who live in a realm of praise and thanksgiving where the enemy no longer has an ability to hold or manipulate that person. Satan is defeated when we have a thankful heart because thankfulness during difficulty is a sacrifice pleasing to God.

Are you thankful? Are you thankful for your present circumstances? Are you thankful for your salvation, your friendships, and your job? Thankfulness is a key to your life. It is the key that turns your situation around because it changes you, your outlook, and your attitude. There is power in a thankful heart.

**Thanksgiving Brings Contentment**

Begin to thank God for all the blessings he has given you instead of dwelling on the negative. Discontent dries up the soul. Look at what Elizabeth Elliott, who lost her husband on the mission field and has faced multitudes of hardships, says about loving God's will and being content. "To love God is to love His will. It is to wait quietly for life to be measured by one who knows us through and through. It is to be content with His timing and His wise apportionment. It is to follow in the steps of the Master, as did Paul, who was able to say that he had learned contentment no matter what the circumstances. His circumstances when he wrote that? Prison. No easy lesson, but great gain which is the sum of godliness plus contentment (I Timothy 6:6)."

Look at the example of Jesus. He followed the will of His Father to the very end. He obeyed without complaint. In Philippians 2:5-8, Paul says that we should have the same attitude. Jesus made himself nothing and took on the very nature of a servant. He humbled Himself and became obedient to death. We also are to have this same attitude with a humble and thankful acceptance of God's will for our lives.

*"Jesus loved the will of His Father. He embraced the limitations, the necessities, the conditions, the very chains of His humanity as He walked and worked*

*here on earth, fulfilling moment by moment His divine commission and the stern demands of His incarnation. Never was there a word or even a look of complaint." -- Elizabeth Elliott*

**Offer God a Sacrifice of Praise and Thanksgiving**

The Duke of Wellington was the great British military leader who regretted that he had not learned the secret of praise during his lifetime. He had many great accomplishments and even defeated Napoleon at Waterloo. He was a brilliant and demanding man and when he was older, he realized that there were areas in his life that needed to change. In his old age a woman asked him this question, "What would you do differently if you had your life to live over again?" He thought carefully and said, "I would give more praise." This is a lesson for all of us; if we would learn to be people of praise and thanksgiving all the days of our lives it would be a great accomplishment.

David said in Psalm 116:17, "I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the Lord." Let each of us seek to have an attitude of gratitude and thanksgiving, rising to a new level of holiness in our lives. **Here are 3 ways to practice an attitude of thankfulness in everyday life:**

- **Thank and praise God for everything in your life.** Thank Him for even the difficulties. It is a sacrifice to do this. But He can turn troubles to triumph. "Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise -- the fruit of lips that confess his name" (Hebrews 13:15).
- **Don't allow yourself to complain about anything.** During the difficult times, be very careful to watch your tongue. Instead of complaining, think of ways you can verbally offer God the sacrifice of thanksgiving.
- **Don't compare yourself with others.** Don't wish that your life was different. God knows what is best. The Bible says having a thankful heart is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. When we begin to thank God for what we have rather than comparing ourselves with others, it opens the door for God's blessings.

*"God smiles when we praise and thank Him continually. Few things feel better than receiving heartfelt praise and appreciation from someone else. God loves it, too. ... An amazing thing happens when we offer praise and thanksgiving to God. When we give God enjoyment, our own hearts are filled with joy." -- Rick Warren*

Happy Birthday

- 11/1 Brice Stanfield
- 11/2 Sarah Vaughan, Ronald Barnett
- 11/4 Mark News
- 11/7 Joyce Tate, Mary Tatum
- 11/8 Keystone Todd Young, Sarah Lynch
- 11/10 Annette Wilson, Katrina Martin
- 11/11 Gail Tate Smith
- 11/12 Cathy Stowe, Lorene Sutton, Todd Young
- 11/13 Tina Kirby, Amy Hall
- 11/14 Ashley Shue
- 11/15 Jeanette Holmes, John Byrd, Brittney Kendrick
- 11/16 Asie Glasgow, Susan Cates, Julia Johnson
- 11/17 Danny Gentry
- 11/18 Maddie Byrd, Ryan Jones, Kristen Cole
- 11/20 Marvin Lynch
- 11/21 Jesse Webster
- 11/22 Paul Rigsbee
- 11/23 Kathryn Wilkerson, Gene Evans
- 11/26 Cindie Kirby
- 11/27 Kim Oakley Hagler
- 11/28 Lou Ann Vaughan Myatt, Samantha & Lee Schnell
- 11/29 Jennifer Dean
- 11/30 Jeannie Parker

Happy Anniversary

- 11/12 Charles & Sherri Bradley
- 11/17 Don & Percilla Shepherd
- 11/22 Murray & Trisha Lynch
- 11/30 Mark & Dianne News

Each month we will show an individual's favorite Bible verse and favorite hymn

Jo Ellen Bradley

John 3:16-- For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

"Amazing Grace"

(If you haven't given me your favorite Bible verse & song....please do so)

Attributes of a Pastor

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

Abilities, Accepting, Bible, Caring,  
 Committed, Confidential, Counselor,  
 Development, Effective,  
 Encourages, Enthusiastic, Family,  
 Fellowship, Gifts, Loyal, Mature,  
 Meetings, Mission, New members,  
 Participate, Plans, Powerful,  
 Reaches out, Skilled, Stewardship,  
 Supportive, Teacher, Understands,  
 Worship

After you have found all the words, put the leftover letters in the correct order to form the *mystery answer*.  
 Last month's answer: ETERNAL LIFE

Activities for November 2019

- Each Wednesday Night-----Adult Bible Study @ 6:30PM
- 11/2 Fall Festival & Silent Auction 4:00-7:30PM
  - 11/3 Time Change--Fall back 1 hour, SS for youth only, Additional clean-up after Fall Festival
  - 11/4 Ladies Circle prepares Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes @ 6PM
  - 11/6 Mt Zion Support 11:30AM @ Martha's Pizza in Haw River
  - 11/9 Ladies Bible Study 9-10:30PM
  - 11/10 Flower Fund Collection in Sunday School
  - 11/11 Veteran's Day----BOCE/Deacons/Deaconesses Meetings
  - 11/17 Annual Meeting after service followed by Chili Cook-off
  - 11/24 Deacon's Fund Collection
  - 11/30 Thanksgiving

We had 6 at our October meeting at Cracker Barrel. Our next luncheon will be on November 6 @ 11:30.

There has been a request that we meet at Martha's Pizza in Haw River. It is located on the right (going from Mebane) at Highway 70 & 49 intersection. Hope to see you there.

Thanks to Lillianne for blessing our food at Cracker Barrel.

Libby Atkins

Have a Blessed  
 and  
 Happy Thanksgiving