

Are You a Thanks-Giver?

James 1:17 (NKJV)

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

God has two categories of gifts: **Good and Perfect**. What's unique is that one always precedes the other. How you handle the one, will determine if you qualify for the other. The Kingdom of God always works through sowing and reaping. **In between the seed and the harvest is always time. In between the good gift and the perfect gift is always thank you.**

When you show favor to someone who doesn't know how to respond, you are then constrained from showing them favor in the future. It's natural. Your display of appreciation is what qualifies you for the next act of favor. God is drawn to a **Thanks-Giver**. The only thing God cannot give himself is praise and thanksgiving. So, a person who does is precious to Him.

Here is the question: Are You a Thanks-Giver?

What is a **Thanks-Giver**?

Thanks-Giver – a person who is quick to respond in appreciation and gratitude for everything received or experienced from God and others.

Psalm 92:1-2 (NLT)

1 It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to the Most High.

2 It is good to proclaim your unfailing love in the morning, your faithfulness in the evening,

The Bible says, we should give thanks "in the morning and at night." People pray fervently. But they give thanks, sporadically. Your thanks and praise have the ability to do what your prayers cannot. It is possible to pray amiss, if you don't pray according to His will. However, you cannot praise and

thank Him amiss. Thanksgiving and praise qualify you to receive the divine presence of God. When you praise and thank Him you attract Him.

1. We should give thanks _____.

2 Corinthians 9:7 Amplified Bible (AMP)

7 Let each one give [thoughtfully and with purpose] just as he has decided in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver [and delights in the one whose heart is in his gift].

Your degree of gratitude determines the degree of God's presence in your journey. An addicted thanks-giver can never have an empty life. **The fuller your thanks, the fuller your tanks.** The bible says, "God loves a cheerful giver." And, He gives seed to the sower. So when you consistently and happily give thanks to God, He gladly and graciously gives you more to thank him for.

2. We should give thanks _____.

John 6:8-12 (NLT)

8 Then Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up.

9 "There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?"

10 "Tell everyone to sit down," Jesus said. So they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 5,000.)

11 Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted.

12 After everyone was full, Jesus told his disciples, "Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted."

Jesus gave thanks for the fish and the loaves and they multiplied. Thanksgiving is the platform for miracles to be performed. Jesus gave

thanks at the tomb of his friend Lazarus and death was converted to life. **He literally got up out of the grave.** When we are thankful for what God has given us and are in expectation for what He will do, mind-blowing wonders are the result.

3. We should give thanks with _____.

Psalm 103:1-5 (NASB)

1 Bless the Lord, my soul, And all that is within me, bless His holy name.

2 Bless the Lord, my soul, And do not forget any of His benefits;

3 Who pardons all your guilt, Who heals all your diseases;

4 Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with favor and compassion;

5 Who satisfies your years with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.

Throughout the Bible, there is a recurring instruction. “Do not forget that it was God who brought you out, lifted you up, healed you and delivered you.” We must be careful to never forget that it was God’s goodness that brought us this far. **Jesus reminded the disciples, “Do this in remembrance of me.”** Our reflection on the graciousness of God, lets Him know we are thankful.

4. We should give thanks with _____.

Psalm 118:23 (AMP)

23 This is from the Lord and is His doing; It is marvelous in our eyes.

Acts 12:21-23 (NASB)

21 On an appointed day, after putting on his royal apparel, Herod took his seat on the rostrum and began delivering an address to them.

22 The people repeatedly cried out, “The voice of a god and not of a man!”

23 And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died.

You wouldn't give your car to an 8 year-old child. He/she couldn't handle it and it would probably kill them or someone else. That's exactly what happens when we neglect to give glory to God. The glory that belongs to God is poisonous to men. No man's hand can accommodate God's glory. That's what happened to Herod. He took something in his hands that he couldn't handle. And, it killed him. **Whatever good thing or gift we have, we must always recognize the source. When we point back to the giver, we become thanks-givers ourselves.**

5. We must give thanks with _____.

We are all enrolled in the University of Thanksgiving. We are learning what it means to be truly thankful. When you and I become **Thanks-Givers** we will truly qualify for what God has in store for us.