

Sunday, February 28, 2021

Title: The Habit of Giving Thanks

Receiving God's Favor - 6

Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:16 – 24

Purpose: I want to PERSUADE my congregation that to “give thanks in all circumstances” is an act of our WILL and not an emotional response to our current situation.

1 Timothy 4:13, “*Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.*”

Introduction:

Review of the last Sunday's devotional:
The Habit of Prayer

1. Prayer is a Divine Ministry
2. Prayer is a Divine Focus
3. Prayer Has a Divine Promise
4. Prayer is Divinely Commanded

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:16 – 24; 1 Peter 5:6 - 11

“I have yet to be persuaded that, as born again children of God Almighty, we would ever be instructed by our Father to do something beyond our wills capacity to obey.”

1. Giving of Thanks is an Act of the Will:

1 Thessalonians 5:16 -19, “*Rejoice always, (17) pray without ceasing, (18) give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (19) Do not quench the Spirit.*”

~ Psalm 118:1, “*Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!*” compare John 3:16

~ Ephesians 5:20, “*giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

2. Giving of Thanks is an Act of FAITH:

~ 2 Corinthians 5:7, “for we walk by faith, not by sight.”

Read the whole chapter.

~ 2 Corinthians 4:16 – 18, “*So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. (17) For this light momentary affliction is preparing us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, (18) as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.*”

~ Hebrews 11:1, “*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*”

~ 1 Peter 5:6 – 11 (Read again)

3. Giving of Thanks

is an Act of UNDERSTANDING:

~ Romans 8:28 – 29, “*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (29) For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.*”

Character over circumstances!

~ 1 Corinthians 10:13, “*No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide a way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*”

Read 2 Corinthians 12:9 – 10

~ James 1:2 – 4, “*Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, (3) for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness, (4) And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*”

Compare 1 Peter 4:12

4. Giving of Thanks for Discipline:

~ Hebrews 12:4 – 6, “*In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. (5) And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. (6) For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.*”

- Natural consequences
- Conviction of the Holy Spirit
- Church discipline
- Civil discipline
- Supernatural discipline

Conclusion:

Hymn – Count Your Blessings