



THANKSGIVING

Grace and Peace to you in the matchless name of Jesus. I'd like to start off with a few questions. What does it mean to be thankful? How does thanksgiving play a role in your life? What is its biblical importance? Does it in any way enhance your life? Take a moment to think through these questions. What were your answers?

To greatly assess a situation, we must ponder, Selah, think through the mind of God, which is His word and His Holy Spirit.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.
Philippians 4:8.

The words "think on" in this verse mean to take inventory. Taking inventory is a deliberate task. It requires focus and skill. When I worked in retail, the thought of inventory would cause me to start working on ways to not come to work. However, one company that I worked for, hired a professional team to come in and do inventory. I was taken aback by the efficiency of these people. They had a machine on their hip that they used to punch in numbers. However, they didn't look at the machine. With one hand, they counted products; with the other hand, they typed. They never looked at the machine. I said to myself, "They have to be putting in some numbers wrong!" Yet, they were not. Our numbers always matched.

With that being said, taking inventory of one's life regarding thanksgiving requires concentration and skill. By concentration, I mean to focus in on how much you are thanking our Creator for His goodness in your life and

taking account of how much complaining you do. From the greatest to the least in situations.

One person goes to a grocery store and is so appreciative of the abundance of food, so many different colors and varieties of fruits and vegetables, snacks, and beverages. Another comes in and immediately looks at the lines. Just to see how long they may be in the checkout. One never sees the lines because they are so thankful to be in a place that has options they can afford to buy. The other is ungrateful because this will take up so much of their time. One comes from a country where you must wait hours in line just to walk into a store that may or may not have what they need or would like. The other has become so familiar with abundance that they are callous towards it. The one who is so excited would annoy the other who is so unthankful.

Can you see this? What happens when a believer who has a heart that is filled with thanksgiving, has a mind that is filled with ungratefulness? Can that be so? You would find out when you take inventory. There are times when I am ministering, and I'll ask the crowd if they are full of joy. The reply is always the same. "Yes," they proclaim. I will then say, "Please notify your face." Those looks could send a bull into a rage. They may say I am filled with the joy of the Lord. Yet they have their mind on problems, situations, and such, and it stifles the expression of joy that is in their hearts.

With that being said, let's touch base on my original questions. For to take inventory of anything without knowing what it is, would be presumptuous or even downright foolishness. What does it mean to be thankful?

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

The words *give thanks* are an expression of joy. It also more literally means: to be thankful for God's grace. We should all know that His grace is what enables us to do the things that He has called us to do. No one can of themselves do anything for the Lord. From the smallest thing to the largest task. It all requires His ability through us. An ungrateful person doesn't see it. A reason for this is that they depend on their ability to. At some point, that person's strength runs out. Our Heavenly Father's doesn't. When we

recognize that it is the Lord who is performing the work through us, it produces a response of thanksgiving.

Now that we have some understanding of what thanksgiving means, it should be easier to answer the subsequent questions. Those questions can only be attended to by you. Purposefully consider this, and then let us know your results.

Until the next time

Shalom Shalom

Apostle George Harrison