

You Can't Keep A Captive's Unthankfulness When You Have A Deliverer's Destiny!

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If you have spare change in a dish someplace or in your pocket...

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you can attend church meetings without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than three billion in the world.

And if your parents are still alive and still married, you are very rare, even in the United States

You will never be the Christian you need to be without "THANKFULNESS" as a major quality of your life!!

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I. WHEN TO GIVE THANKS

1 Thess. 5: 18 - give thanks in all circumstances,

Many times we offer thanksgiving to God only after our prayers have been answered!

Dan. 6:1-10 -

1. It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom,
2. with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss.

3. Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.

4. At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.

5. Finally these men said, "We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God."

6. So the administrators and the satraps went as a group to the king and said: "O King Darius, live forever!

7. The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or man during the next thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into the lions' den.

8. Now, O king, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered--in accordance with the laws of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed."

9. So King Darius put the decree in writing.

10. Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

DANIEL DID NOT WAIT FOR ANSWERS TO HIS PRAYERS TO CRY OUT TO GOD IN THANKSGIVING ...

God responds much more clearly to people with THANKFUL hearts than those who do not have one!

Philip. 4:6: - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

What follows prayer with thanksgiving? ...PEACE OF MIND!

Phil. 4:7 - "And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

1Thess: 5:18 - "give thanks in all circumstances!"

Eph. 5:19b-20 - Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- a. Do we thank Him in advance even during painful experiences?
- b. Do we thank Him when people we don't like are blessed?
- c. Do we thank Him for trials before we see the reasons behind them?
- d. Do we thank Him for all the seemingly little things that many people usually take for granted?

Thankfulness is JUST THE CONFIDENT KNOWLEDGE THAT GOD WILL WORK OUT HIS GOOD WILL IN US NO MATTER HOW TERRIBLE THE ORDEAL SEEMS!

Thankfulness is really closely tied to TRUST!

God never wastes a hurt!

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II. WHY WE GIVE THANKS

2 Tim. 3:2 - People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,

God's people should be the MOST THANKFUL PEOPLE ON THE PLANET!

ROMANS 1:21 - For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile (vain, wicked, idolatrous) and their foolish hearts were darkened.

(1. It was at the foundation of mankind's fall away from God!

They were not thankful for all they had, they only focused on the one thing they were told they couldn't have!

(2. It will also be true in the end times with fallen man!

The best protection for you to be true to God is to keep a thankful spirit!

Andrew Murray - "Let us thank God heartily as often as we pray that we have His Spirit in us to teach us to pray. Thanksgiving will draw our hearts out to God and keep us engaged with Him; it will take our attention from ourselves and give the Spirit room in our hearts."

It is AN INVALUABLE QUALITY OF THE Christian life!

1 Thess. 5:18b - give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Philip. 1:3-6 - I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Thankfulness will guard our hearts and spirit from bitterness!

It will keep you from breaking the 10 commandment of covetousness or envy!

It will keep us from anger.

It will strengthen us for any and all trials we might face.

It will establish our testimony for Christ to others.

Philippians 1:6b - ...he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

A.W. Tozer - "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."

Chuck Swindoll - "Gratitude is a decision of the will, and if a decision of the will, the choice resides squarely with us. Deciding to be thankful is no easy task. It takes work." -Chuck Swindoll

MAKE GRATITUDE YOUR ATTITUDE!

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