

Give Thanks to God Because You Love Him

A. Why Give Thanks to God

1. Because of His goodness and love.
 - a. Ps 136:1 "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever."
 - 1) True gratitude flows from love, not just obligation or blessings received.
 - 2) Recognize God's goodness and enduring love.
2. As an act of loving obedience.
 - a. Jn 14:15 "If you love me, keep my commands."
 - 1) Love for God motivates grateful, obedient living.
3. As a daily lifestyle habit
 - a. Develop an attitude of gratitude.
 - b. Not just for special moments, celebratory events, or holidays like Thanksgiving.
 - c. 1 Thess 5:18 (NIV) "Give thanks in all circumstances."
 - 1) Your love for God motivates you to remain thankful every day, even in trials, or difficult times, because you trust Him to help you, sustain you, and guide you.
4. As praise to enter His gates.
 - a. Ps 100:4-5 "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name."
 - 1) Gratitude opens the door to higher levels of fellowship with God.
5. As a thanksgiving for everything.
 - a. Col 3:17: "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."
 - 1) Gratitude from your heart should permeate your words and actions.

B. What Thankfulness Reaps

1. Thankfulness reaps abounding blessings.
 - a. It causes overflow in every area of your life.
2. Thanksgiving strengthens faith.
 - a. Col 2:6-7 (AMPC) "6 As you have therefore received Christ, [even] Jesus the Lord, [so] walk (regulate your lives and conduct yourselves) in union with and conformity to Him. 7 Have the roots [of your being] firmly and deeply planted [in Him, fixed and founded in Him], being continually built up in Him, becoming increasingly more confirmed and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and abounding and overflowing in it with thanksgiving."
3. You reap what you sow; sow thanksgiving/gratitude, reap blessings.
 - a. Gal 6:7-10 (GNT & NKJV) "7 Do not deceive yourselves; no one makes a fool of God. You will reap exactly what you plant [sow]."

8 If you plant in the field of your natural desires, from it you will gather the harvest of death; if you plant in the field of the Spirit, from the Spirit you will gather the harvest of eternal life. 9 So let us not become tired [weary] of doing good; for if we do not give up, the time will come when we will reap the harvest. 10 So then, as often as we have the chance, we should do good to everyone, and especially to those who belong to our family in the faith.”

4. Pray vigilantly with thanksgiving.
 - a. Col 4:2 “Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving.”
5. Don’t be anxious, but pray with thanksgiving.
 - a. Phil 4:6-7 “6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”
6. Give thanks and be satisfied with good things.
 - a. Ps 107:8-9 “Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.”
6. Give thanks for the victory.
 - a. 1 Cor 15:57 (AMPC) “But thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory [making us conquerors] through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

C. How to Show Thankfulness to Others

1. Offer forgiveness and grace.
 - a. Pray the Forgiveness Prayer to forgive him/her and forgive yourself too.
 - b. Ask the person to forgive you just as you are forgiving them.
 - c. Take the first step toward reconciliation.
 - d. Forgiveness opens the door for love, joy, peace, and thanksgiving.
 - e. Col 3:13 (AMPC) Be gentle and forbearing with one another and, if one has a difference (a grievance or complaint) against another, readily pardoning each other; even as the Lord has [freely] forgiven you, so must you also [forgive].
2. Express appreciation in words and actions.
 - a. Speak kind words, write loving heart-felt encouraging notes, serve with love.
 - b. 1 Thess 5:11 “Encourage one another and build each other up.”
 - c. Gal 5:13b “But through love serve and seek the best for one another.”
 - d. Prov 16:24 (AMPC) “Pleasant words are as a honeycomb, sweet to the mind and healing to the body.”
3. Pray for him/her and pray together with him/her.
 - a. It deepens relational bonds.
 - b. Phil 1:3 “I thank my God every time I remember you.”