

Thank You

These are perhaps the most beautiful words in our vocabulary, yet so often we are not thankful enough. Thanksgiving is an annual holiday celebrated in the United States on the fourth Thursday in November. The first Thanksgiving, three days of prayer and feasting, was celebrated by the Plymouth colonists in 1621 to give thanks for the first harvest and for surviving the first terrible Massachusetts winter. The first national Thanksgiving Day proclaimed by President George Washington was celebrated on November 26, 1789. In 1863 President Abraham Lincoln made Thanksgiving an annual holiday celebrated on the last Thursday in November. In Korea the Christians celebrate Thanksgiving on November 20th but it is not a public holiday like in America.

Jesus set an example of being thankful in His prayer in John 11:41, *“Father I thank you that you have heard me.”*

Thanks must be offered to God

1 Chronicles 16:8, *“Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done”.*

What has God done for you? Tell Him and tell others what God has done for you. There is so much God has done for us! Just to mention a few...

- Forgiveness of all our sins
- Salvation and eternal life in heaven
- New life on earth
- A wonderful and precious Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ
- Health and strength for daily living
- Family and friends
- Work and all needs supplied

Give thanks for everything

1 Thessalonians 5:18, *“Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus”*

We must thank God for all circumstances, the good and those we call bad.

Give thanks upon completion of great undertakings

The example is the thanksgiving to God after Nehemiah completed the rebuilding of the wall around Jerusalem.

Nehemiah 12:31, *“I had the leaders of Judah go up on top of the wall. I also assigned two large choirs to give thanks.*

⁴⁰ The two choirs that gave thanks then took their places in the house of God; so did I, together with half the officials, ⁴¹ as well as the priests-- Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Micaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah and Hananiah with their trumpets-- ⁴² and also Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malkijah, Elam and Ezer. The choirs sang under the direction of Jezrahiah. ⁴³ And on that day they offered great sacrifices, rejoicing because God had given them great joy. The women and children also rejoiced. The sound of rejoicing in Jerusalem could be heard far away”

Give thanks before taking food

John 6:11, “Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.”

1 Timothy 4:3, “They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. ⁴ For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵ because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.”

Give Thanks to God for His goodness and love

Psalm 106:1, **“Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
His love endures forever.”**

Give thanks for the gift of Jesus Christ to the world

2 Corinthians 9:15, “Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!”

Give thanks for others responding to God's Word

1 Thessalonians 2:13

“And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe”

Give thanks for the conversion of others

Romans 6:17, *“But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. ¹⁸ You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.*

Give thanks because God is near

Psalm 75:1, “We give thanks to you, O God, we give thanks, for your Name is near; men tell of your wonderful deeds”

Give thanks for the privilege of serving God

1 Timothy 1:12, “I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service”

Proverbs 16:3, “Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.”

1 Corinthians 10:31, “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”

Colosians 3:17, “And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colosians 3:23-24, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”