

The Unshakable Life: Living Thankful

Colossians 3:15 NKJV And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Colossians 4:2 NKJV Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving. “Thanksgiving” is the act of offering thanks or being thankful.

Thankfulness is associated with the recognition of God’s provision, deliverance, or character.

Every day should be filled with thankfulness. Every time of thanksgiving should take into account all of the things that God has done. We are extremely blessed.

Those of us who are living in covenant with God are blessed in every way.

God blesses us coming and going. He blesses us in the city and in the country. He blesses the labor of our hands. He blesses our children and our possessions. Give Him thanks.

God’s goodness and blessing make us know that we are in His favor.

We have come to depend on His mercy, grace and goodness. We depend on the fact that God fights for us. We trust in His blessings on our children and our possessions.

We thrive because God blesses us and gives us His bounty. Give Him thanks.

Offering thanks to God was introduced in Leviticus 7:11-15 where the Law of Thanksgiving was associated with the peace offerings. When the offering was made to God, it was to be offered with “the sacrifice of thanksgiving.”

Thanksgiving took a prominent place in the Psalms.

Psalms 103:1–5 (NLT) Let all that I am praise the Lord; with my whole heart, I will praise His holy name. Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I never forget the good things He does for me. He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases. He redeems me from death and crowns me with love and tender mercies. He fills my life with good things. My youth is renewed like the eagle’s!

We are encouraged to give thanksgiving to God personally and publicly as the people of God.

The traditional Jewish standard in the Torah forbids anyone from enjoying any pleasure until they first offered a “blessing” to God. Rabbinical Jewish texts viewed the blessings to God as a thanksgiving for God’s goodness and love that make every pleasure available. They found it appropriate to give thanks to God for everything they enjoyed.

Psalms 100:1-5 NKJV Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.

Jesus took thankfulness to a new level.

Jesus offered thanksgiving to God on several occasions.

Before His miracles, Jesus gave thanks to God. He gave thanks to God for hiding His plans from the wise and prudent and revealing them to the little children, (Matthew 11:25).

Before He called Lazarus from the dead, Jesus offered thanks to God.

John 11:41-42 NKJV Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me."

When the multitudes followed Jesus into the wilderness, He had compassion on them and healed their sick.

Seeing that they were hungry, Jesus took the loaves and fishes, looked up into heaven and "gave thanks."

Matthew 15:36-37 NKJV And He took the seven loaves and the fish and gave thanks, broke them and gave them to His disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitude. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up seven large baskets full of the fragments that were left.

Jesus was giving thanks to God as the provider of the food for the multitude. The language here is not describing a blessing over the food, but a thanksgiving to God for providing it for the multitude.

The idea behind the thanksgiving and the provision was God's supply of the "bread of life."

As always, Jesus had a greater message behind the miracle than their immediate need. He was giving thanks to God for providing the real solution to their need.

In Matthew, Mark and Luke we are given an account of the Last Supper. (Matthew 26:17-29; Mark 14:12-25; Luke 22:7-38)

During the meal, Jesus offered thanks before they ate the bread and again before they drank the fruit of the vine. The thanksgiving was more than a blessing over the food and drink. Jesus was thanking God the Father for His provision, blessing, and supply. He was seeing much more than the bread and the cup. Jesus had His mind on His own body and blood. He was offering thanksgiving for the provision that the Father made that would provide salvation to mankind.

The practice of thanksgiving played a necessary role in the early church.

Often the Apostle Paul gave thanks and encouraged believers to be thankful.

Ephesians 5:19-20 NKJV Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NKJV Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Thanksgiving is a part of the believer's life.

We should worship God in the Spirit, giving thanks. We should give thanks to God for everything. We should recognize God's will when we give thanks. The church is encouraged to pray and give thanksgiving to God.

Giving thanks will continue in the throne room of heaven.

In John's visions, the four living creatures and the church give thanks and worship to Him who sits on the throne, (Revelation 4:9-11) In Revelation 7:9-12, the multitudes from all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues worship with the angels, elders, and four living creatures.

Revelation 7:12 NKJV saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

Each of us should offer praise and thanksgiving for everything that God has done. Give blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever.