

Quote of the week: "Some people are always grumbling because roses have thorns; I am thankful that thorns have roses."

TITLE: GIVE THANKS ALWAYS

1 Corinthians 8: 3 But if one loves God truly [with affectionate reverence, prompt obedience, and grateful recognition of His blessing], he is known by God [recognized as worthy of His intimacy and love, and he is owned by Him].

One who truly loves God will have an affectionate reverence for the word, recognizing and respecting his righteousness. Thankful for all his blessings

Thank [God] in everything [no matter what the circumstances may be, **be thankful and give thanks**], for this is the will of God for you [who are] in Christ Jesus [the Revealer and Mediator of that will]. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 AMP NLT says **18Be thankful in all circumstances**

Being thankful and giving thanks is 2 totally different things. 76x The Bible says "give thanks"

NUMBERS 14 Then the whole community began weeping aloud, and they cried all night. ² Their voices rose in a great chorus of protest against Moses and Aaron. "If only we had died in Egypt, or even here in the wilderness!" they complained. ³ "Why is the Lord taking us to this country only to have us die in battle? Our wives and our little ones will be carried off as plunder! Wouldn't it be better for us to return to Egypt?" ⁴ Then they plotted among themselves, "Let's choose a new leader and go back to Egypt!" ⁵ **Then Moses and Aaron fell face down on the ground** before the whole community of Israel. ⁶ Two of the men who had explored the land, Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, tore their clothing.

HOW MANY TIMES DO WE BEG GOD TO CHANGE OUR SITUATION BECAUSE HE DOESN'T TAKE US ON THE PATH THAT WE PLANNED?

They really didn't want to be transformed; they wanted to be translated.

In other words, Lord take me out of this mess! I don't want to go through anything! The Transformation process forces you to trust him. Interesting that God could have taken them the shorter route, but they were not ready

for war yet. Every new level of responsibility means you will have new things coming against you! Joyce Meyer calls it, **New Level-New Devil.**

KEY: ⁵ Then Moses and Aaron fell face down on the ground. Joshua and Caleb were so full of grief they tore their clothes.

When you are going through stuff, you either go under or over but you must have a thankful heart in the process. FOR MOST OF US IT IS NOT THAT BAD!!

Romans 1:21 (NLT) “Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn’t worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused.”

There is an unmistakable, undeniable awareness of God in this society, yet the system refuses to acknowledge it in a way that is personal. The text says, “As a result, their minds became dark and confused.”

Being unthankful is the cornerstone, the launching point, for every corrupting influence of greed that consumes our unquenchable desire for more. Being ungrateful and unthankful is the seedbed for everything that conflicts with the goodness and grace of God.

Romans 1:18-20 is the backdrop ⁸ But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness.^[a]¹⁹ They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. ²⁰ For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

Christians who replace the name of God with “The universe” should cringe in embarrassment and repent for such a mockery of terms for the sake of being relevant.

I want to use this verse as a spring board to jump back in time and see if the Jewish ancestors were any better with remembering to be grateful.

Grumbling sustains offences. It lingers without releasing its grip. It is the

stronghold of resistance and bitterness. You keep reverberating everything that does not go your way.

I know no one listening live or online has ever complained, grumbled or was guilty of fault finding!

Murmuring and complaining will take an 11-day vacation and turn it into a 40 year nightmare. Ask any Israelite who hung out with Moses.

There is always something to be happy about!!! Even if a body part isn't working or a spouse isn't cooperating, or your child is not listening.

Philippians 2:14 "Do all things without complaining and disputing"

God says, you are my people, now go give some flavor to a tasteless generation.

⁶ Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and **thank him** for all he has done.⁷ Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

1 Corinthians 10:10-11 "And don't grumble as some of them did, and then were destroyed by the angel of death. These things happened to them as examples for us. They were written down to warn us who live at the end of the age. 23,000 died of snake bites."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-19 "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything (NOT FOR EVERYTHING) give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit."

Make this a way of life. Live in an open communion with God where the Spirit flows.

Cicero who lived in Rome between 106 – 43 BC said that, “gratitude is not only the greatest of the virtues but the parent of all others”. We need an attitude of gratitude.

What you appreciate, appreciates! What you don't appreciate ... depreciates!

Appreciate:— to be grateful or thankful for. OR to raise or increase in value.
Spouse – Job – Pastor – Kids

Psalm 100:4-5 “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.”

Psalm 69:30 “I will praise the name of God with a song and will magnify him with thanksgiving.”

Ephesians 5:19 “Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything.”

Colossians 3:17 “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

Thanks (eucharistia):—gratitude; expressions of grateful language to God as an act of worship, thankfulness, giving of thanks, thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving (towdah):— **to express visible** thanks or adoration to God by extending the hands to God in reverence, coupled with offering a sacrifice of praise to God through audible confessions of thanks.

Sonja Lyubomirsky Professor of Psychology at the University of California
Author of “The How of Happiness,” a book of strategies backed by scientific research that can be used to increase happiness.

“One characteristic of the happiest people is that they are comfortable expressing gratitude for all they have.” Sonja Lyubomirsky

Dr. Robert Emmons (Thanks! How the New Science of Gratitude Can Make You Happier) “I soon discovered that gratitude is a deeper, more complex phenomenon that plays a critical role in human happiness. Gratitude is literally one of the few things that can measurably change peoples’ lives. We have discovered that a person who experiences gratitude is able to cope more effectively with everyday stress, may show increased resilience in the face of trauma-induced stress, and may recover more quickly from illness and benefit from greater physical health”

Dr. Robert Emmons “A practice of gratitude raises your ‘happiness set-point’ so you can remain at a higher level of happiness regardless of outside circumstances.”

Dan Baker — (What Happy People Know) “During active appreciation, the threatening messages from your amygdala [fear center of the brain] and the anxious instincts of your brainstem are cut off, suddenly and surely, from access to your brain’s neocortex, where they can fester, replicate themselves, and turn your stream of thoughts into a cold river of dread. It is a fact of neurology that the brain cannot be in a state of appreciation and a state of fear at the same time. The two states may alternate but are mutually exclusive.”

Moses says in Deuteronomy 8:1-10 READ

IF you are going to dig in and make an effort you will find what you need in this season.

That's the problem with some of us. We've settled down. We used to be enthusiastic about God's grace, but we start taking him for granted when we get settled. I don't want to settle just because God has satisfied me. I want to stay hungry.

If you forget God you're going to settle down and forget the one who brought you here.

VS 13-18

Moses is telling these ungrateful people who are quick to complain that you are entering the promise land of provision but don't forget who fed you along the way and provided for you when you could not provide for yourselves. He says to them, "You're going to a better place. Your best is before you".

On one hand, he is prophesying the potential of the Promised Land, but he is also pointing out the tendencies of people who enter the promise to forget the Provider once they've received it.

"Be really careful, because God's gifts alone are not able to give you joy. God's gifts can only bring you joy when they are joined with your gratitude".

You know, you can be surrounded by all the blessings, all the relationships, all this provision, all this goodness, all these opportunities, but if you don't know how to turn the blessing into a gratitude of praise, it will turn to pride in your heart, and your life will never be filled with joy, because you have not learned to be thankful.

"Maybe what we need in your life isn't the next level of accomplishment or the next level of accumulation but the next level of appreciation for what you have that will set the stage for you to make the most out of what you accumulate in the future". Steven Furtick

If you grow in gifts but don't grow in gratitude, what have you gained? If God gives it but you don't know what to do with it, it won't make you happy. This is a Thanksgiving sermon. It's about how to be happy. They study more and more that the happy people are not the ones who have the best of everything but those who make the most of everything they do have. You

know this. You've met people with less than you who seem to have more joy.

Look at Habbakkuk 3:17-19 Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, ¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation! ¹⁹ The Sovereign Lord is my strength! He makes me as surefooted as a deer,^l able to tread upon the heights.

Keith Green. "How can you be so dead, when you've been so well fed"?

The principle lies in verse 10. He said, **When you** have eaten your fill, be sure to praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.

This is after you get the blessing.

Perhaps happiness is not about accumulation as much as it is about appreciation. But this world doesn't market appreciation to us.

If your praise is past due so is your provision Are you walking in blessings that used to be your prayer requests, and you haven't even stopped to circle them and say, "Thank you, Lord"? For the... For the... Moses said, "Thank him for the good land. Thank him".

Touch somebody. Say, "It's time to elevate my attitude of gratitude. So here we see Moses teaching the people to relate to God on the provision level. David was a little bit different because of his experience. He was raised up as a shepherd in Jesse's house to be king anointed by Samuel. He had a remarkable ability to remember where he came from. It always made him thankful and made him grateful. Even though his life was very dysfunctional, he was driven by a sense of returning to God who had given all the blessings to him. David comes in to give us a deeper understanding of gratitude.

While Moses is teaching the people to relate to God on the most basic level, "When he blesses you, remember him. When he blesses you, obey him. When he keeps his covenant with you, keep his commands that it may go well with you," this is basic.

David steps in and takes it a little bit deeper. Let's go deeper. David says, "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside the still waters". David wrote it in a valley, yet he says something interesting in Psalm 23. This takes us to the next level of praise. Psalm 23, verse 4. He says, "**Even though** I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me".

Moses teaches us how to thank God **for the**, but David comes along and teaches us how to thank God **even though**.

Even though... Even though... This is a graduated form of gratitude. This is the remedial level. "Thank you for the..." But this is the place where you learn to praise God even though.

Even though...

Even though my heart is broken, it is well. Even though I lost some people, it is well. Even though I'm going through... It is well. Even though... Even though... This is where you learn to thank God for what you can see, but this is the place where you learn to trust God with what you cannot. "Even though I walk through the darkest valley..."

Even though recognizes his presence in the presence of enemies. This is the stage of praise where you're no longer thanking God for his provision only but now I'm thanking him for his presence. You're going to need this. Can you keep your eyes fixed on the presence of God in the presence of your enemies?

David said, "God isn't the only one seated. I have enemies all around me". Verse 5: "You prepare a table before me..."

STEVEN FURTICK SAID, In the presence of my insecurity. In the presence of my deficits. In the presence of my addictions. In the presence of my confusion. In the presence of what I've lost. In the presence of the threat that I won't make it. "...in the presence of my enemies". I'm looking straight ahead. When you learn to have a heart of praise in the presence of enemies, you set the table. That's what David said, right? "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies". If you can walk with God in darkness enough depending on the light he showed you in the last season, you'll learn to read your enemies as a sign that it's time to eat.

David said, "God made my enemies serve me my entrée. God made the things that conspire to take me out feed me for the place he was bringing me into. I got a seat at the table. I'm a big boy. I can handle trouble. I can handle tests. I can handle it".

I'm sitting down in the middle of all kinds of nonsense, but I have my eyes fixed on the presence of the One who is within me. Greater is he that is in me. Wouldn't it be great if you could turn the tables on your fear today and make the thing that was coming after you serve the purpose of God in your life? David said, "You can do it. You can do it". If you can eat in the presence of enemies, if you can be blessed under the weight of burdens, if you don't always need me to bring it up to the table and set it before you, but if you can set...

See, when I praise God through pain... Everybody shout, "Even though"! Shout it like you want the Devil to hear. Even though! "Even though you came at me, I'm still standing. Even though you set an ambush against me, I'm still sitting at the table". When you praise him in pain, it is preparation for provision.