

When I'm Thankful

Message 04 of 05 in the series, "Recommended Playlist"

"Shout with joy to the LORD, all the earth! Worship the LORD with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy. Acknowledge that the LORD is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation."

Psalm 100 (NLT)

1. We need to give thanks to the Lord.

"Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus."

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NLT)

"It is good to give thanks to the LORD, And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; To declare Your loving kindness in the morning, And Your faithfulness every night, On an instrument of ten strings, On the lute, And on the harp, With harmonious sound. For You, LORD, have made me glad through Your work; I will triumph in the works of Your hands. O LORD, how great are Your works! Your thoughts are very deep. A senseless man does not know, Nor does a fool understand this." Psalm 92:1-6 (NKJV)

2. We need to give thanks to the Lord for His provision.

"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." Psalm 103:2-5 (NLT)

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." James 1:17 (NIV)

Note: It is easy to forget how good God has been to us. "When you have eaten your fill, be sure to praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. But that is the time to be careful! Beware that in your plenty you do not forget the LORD your God... never say to yourself, 'I have achieved this wealth with my own strength and energy.' Remember the LORD your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful..." Deuteronomy 8:10-18 (NLT)

Note: It's easy to forget to say "thank you" when God answers our prayers. "As he entered a village there, ten lepers stood at a distance, crying out, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' He looked at them and said, 'Go show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were cleansed of their leprosy. One of them, when he saw that he was healed, came back to Jesus, shouting, 'Praise God!' He fell to the ground at Jesus' feet, thanking him for what he had done. This man was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, 'Didn't I heal ten men? Where are the other nine?'" Luke 17:12-17 (NLT2)

3. We need to give thanks to the Lord for His protection.

"I give you thanks, O LORD, with all my heart... Though I am surrounded by troubles, you will protect me from the anger of my enemies. You reach out your hand, and the power of your right hand saves me."

Psalm 138:1,7 (NLT)

"The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them." Psalm 34:7 (NIV)

"Don't be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer. But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia."

Daniel 10:12-13 (NLT)

4. We need to give thanks to God for His direction.

"I give you thanks, O LORD, with all my heart... The LORD will work out his plans for my life— for your faithful love, O LORD, endures forever." Psalm 138:1,8 (NLT)

The LORD says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you."

Psalm 32:8 (NLT)

“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, yet I will rejoice in the LORD! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation! The Sovereign LORD is my strength! He makes me as surefooted as a deer, able to tread upon the heights.” Habakkuk 3:17-19 (NLT)

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” Psalm 23:4 (NIV)

5. We need to give thanks to the Lord so others will know how good He is.

“Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever. Has the LORD redeemed you? Then speak out! Tell others he has redeemed you from your enemies.” Psalm 107:1-2 (NLT)

“My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness And Your salvation all the day, For I do not know their limits. I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD; I will make mention of Your righteousness, of Yours only. O God, You have taught me from my youth; And to this day I declare Your wondrous works. Now also when I am old and gray headed, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come.” Psalm 71:15-18 (NKJV)

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“Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. *His love endures forever.*” Psalm 136:1 (NIV)

“Don’t come to Christianity because it’s comforting. Don’t come to Christianity because it’s encouraging. Don’t come to Christianity because it’s relevant. Don’t come to Christianity because it’s exciting. Come to Christianity because it’s true.” C.S. Lewis

CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever gone back to thank someone years after they did something kind for you? How did they respond? Share the story with your group.
2. Look up the lyrics for the old hymn “Count Your Blessings”. What stands out to you?
3. Read Philippians 4:4-7. Have you ever experienced God’s peace by thanking Him during a difficult time?
4. Read Psalm 100. List some ways that God has been good to you.
5. Read Psalm 32:8, 138:1,8. In your opinion, why do many believers struggle to thank God for the unique path their life has taken?
6. Read Psalm 34:7 and Psalm 91:9-12. How does it make you feel to know that God has angels watching over you?
7. How would you teach someone to intentionally thank God on a regular basis?