

Tusculum Hills Baptist Church  
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Sermon title: Giving Thanks is the Sign of a Grateful Heart, Psalm 100:1-5

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**INTRODUCTION:** Turn with me to Psalm 100 and while you are turning there, I want to tell you about a survey regarding stay at home moms; the mothers in this survey were asked to list the things that they were thankful for.

**Things stay at home moms are thankful for:**

1. “For husbands who attack small repair jobs around the house because they usually make them big enough to call in the professionals.
2. For children who put away their things & clean up after themselves. They’re such a joy you hate to see them go home to their own parents.
3. For teenagers because they give parents an opportunity to learn a second language.
4. For Smoke alarms because they let you know when the turkey’s done.” (*Melvin Newland, Sermon Central*).

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 100 “<sup>1</sup>Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. <sup>2</sup>Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. <sup>3</sup>Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. <sup>4</sup>Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. <sup>5</sup>For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

**EXPLANATION:** Enter his gates with Thanksgiving. The writer of this Psalm suggests the words on the lips of those coming into the temple gate should be that of Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving before praise because Thanksgiving sets the tone for praise.

**APPLICATION:** Perhaps we can start a new tradition. How about each time we come into the church on Sunday, we consider it a Psalm 100 moment. Just as the Psalmist told people to enter the temple gates with Thanksgiving, we can let the threshold of the door be our point of Thanksgiving.

**ILLSTURATION:** In some my military training, our leadership once set up blue lines in various places around the base. Anytime we came upon a blue line we were to stop and consider whether we wanted to move forward, was this something we really wanted to do with our lives? If so, we were to move forward voluntarily. If not, we were to go out process.

How we need reminders like that to be thankful.

A life without giving thanks is a life without life. Helen Keller could not hear or see, yet she was a thankful person. A little child looked into Helen Keller's face and asked, "Isn't it awful not to have two good eyes?" Helen replied, speaking with her fingers through Miss Sullivan. "Not half so bad as having two good eyes and not being able to see."

**APPLACTION:** A friend of mine wrote:

What if God couldn't take the time to bless us today because we couldn't take the time to thank him yesterday?

What if God decided to stop leading us tomorrow because we did not follow Him today?

What if we never saw another flower bloom because we grumbled when God sent the rain?

What if God didn't walk with us today because we failed to recognize it as his day?

What if God took away the Bible tomorrow because we would not read it today?

What if God took away his message because we failed to listen to his messenger?

What if the door of the church was closed because we did not open the door of our heart?

What if God stopped loving and caring for us because we failed to love and care for others?

What if God would not hear us today because we could not listen to him yesterday?

What if God answered our prayers the way we answer his call for service?

What if God met our needs the way we give him our lives?

These “What If” statements and results can be summed up with a verse from Psalm 103:10 *“<sup>10</sup>O Lord help us to be thankful that you have not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.”*

### **FIRST: GIVING THANKS IS THE SIGN OF A GRATEFUL HEART!**

**ILLUSTRATION:** On November 9, 1620 the 90 feet long Mayflower carrying 152 passengers came near what we now call Cape Cod. Sixty five days on the ocean and now they had land in sight. In their first published account of that day, Pilgrim leaders said, “By break of dawn we espied land. The appearance of it much comforted us, especially seeing so goodly a land, and wooded to the brink of the sea. It caused us to rejoice together, and praise God that had given us once again to see land.”

But there had only just begun. Over the winter and the next year, of the 18 couples one man and four women died. Four entire families died. Only three complete families survived. Six children lost one parent, and five children lost both parents. Sometimes they had nothing to eat, other times that only had grains of corn. Yet one year into it, they decided to celebrate Thanksgiving because they were grateful God had carried them this far. In 1776 the declaration of independence was written, but 150 years earlier, the Pilgrims declared their dependence on God. That’s where our nation really began.

R.C. Cunningham wrote, “Have you ever noticed when Jesus gave thanks? Once he gave thanks for loaves and fishes on the mountainside—common things. Once he

gave thanks to God for revealing His secrets to babes—common people. Once in the darkest hour of His life, on the night when he was betrayed, He gave thanks for the cup that spoke of His impending death. Thankfulness in all things, the pleasant and unpleasant, is the mark of Christian maturity.

## **THE APOSTLE PAUL TAUGHT PEOPLE TO BE THANKFUL IN DIFFICULTIES**

**EXPLANATION:** The Apostle Paul said because of the great revelations God had given him, God gave him a thorn in the flesh to keep him from becoming conceited. He asked three times for God to take it away, but he realized this malady (whatever it was) was for his own good.

**SCRIPTURE:** Paul said in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 12:9 <sup>9</sup> *Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me, That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

**EXPLANATION:** Paul wrote to persecuted people in Colosse and Thessalonica. They were poor, many of them probably slaves living in heathen cities. Paul said in his letter to the Thessalonians, “In everything give thanks for this is the will of God.”

**ILLUSTRATION:** Barry Black, Chaplain to the US Senate is thankful in a similar way. In his book “From the Hood to the Hill,” he says, “If I have learned anything else from life, it is to recognize my debt to unintelligent or unpleasant people--people who deliberately misrepresent and slander me, people who've stood in my way, attempting to deny me my heart's desire. I offer my thanks to these people because they have taught me a great deal about myself. By slamming certain doors in my face, they forced me to find other doors that led to even greater acceptance and blessings. I am a debtor. There is nothing shameful or degrading about that admission--it would be shameful to refuse to admit it.”

## **GIVING THANKS IS THE SIGN OF A GRATEFUL HEART!**

Believers should be the best thanks-givers!

**ILLUSTRATION:** When I was a boy there was a singing family in our church. A father and his three kids had sound equipment and traveled to different churches singing. A few years later, the father quit. He said, “I am doing this for the Lord, but he was not blessing me, so I quit.” I remember how those words struck me as odd even when I was a kid. He completely missed the point. The blessing was that he was doing this with his kids!

**ILLUSTRATION:** A woman in her 80’s keeps a journal of things for which she is thankful. Before she died her journal had over 500 entries. She said, “There are a couple of repeats, but I don’t think God minds being thanked twice.”

Don’t you see such a difference in attitude between the man and the women? The man only in it for what he can get. The women a list of things for which she is thankful.

Have you ever listened to a child’s prayer? Children learn how to pray by saying thank you, and when a child starts talking and a child learns that praying is a way to communicate with God, you start hearing all types of thank you... thank you for the birds... thank you for the grass and the trees... thank you for the food. I remember being a very young boy my day telling me in a kind gentle way “Paul you can stop thanking God for the door knobs, he knows that you are thankful.” But, children are naturally grateful in their prayers and that is the way they learn to pray.

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 17:11-16 *“<sup>11</sup>Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup>As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance <sup>13</sup>and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!” <sup>14</sup>When he saw them, he said, “Go, and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed. <sup>15</sup>One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. <sup>16</sup>He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.”*

**EXPLAINTION:** He returned to the one that he knew healed him!

Giving thanks acknowledges that someone else has done the work.

Believers should be the best thanks-givers because of what we know God had done for us! He’s given us a Savior. He’s forgiven us of our sins. He allows us to

fellowship with him 24/7. We can go directly to him this Jesus as our only intermediary. He's provided us with a way to eternal life in heaven through Jesus Christ.

**CONCLUSION:** Giving Thanks is the sign of a grateful heart and the greatest thank you, you can say today is through action. It is through repenting of sin... it is through thanking Jesus for being your savior and it is through giving your life to him. And, letting him take your life and turning it into what he wants it to be. Because a life without Christ is a life not even coming close to be living to its fullest.

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I use the NIV translation of scripture because of its conversational nature. Feel free to go to Bible Gateway and copy and paste whichever translation you want to use. This transcript has been edited to an outline format that improves readability and therefore may not exactly follow the video edition.

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