

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Thanksgiving

"I am grateful for what I am and have. My thanksgiving is perpetual." – Henry David Thoreau

"There is always, always something to be thankful for." – unknown

"Thanksgiving, after all, is a word of action." – W.J. Cameron

"Nothing is more honorable than a grateful heart." – Seneca

"It is not happy people who are thankful, it is thankful people who are happy." – unknown

While you are familiar with the word thanksgiving, there is another which reflects such a concept perhaps more accurately, and that is thanksgiving. Although not a legitimate word according to the dictionary, it is an idea that expresses a life of giving thanks.

While one can be grateful that there are people who still honor the Thanksgiving holiday, it is those who live their lives with a constant spirit of thanksgiving that is truly worthy of our appreciation and adoration.

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thess. 5:16-18). It is noteworthy that Paul says "in everything give thanks." Yes, EVERYTHING.

The beauty in thanksgiving is to attain a spirit that one lives a thankful life. It is not just a matter of being grateful for a few things, but as Paul writes, everything. That means that nothing is excluded.

It may surprise you to learn that the word thanksgiving is used some 32 times in scripture. And since God is the Author of Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16), God knew of the concept of giving thanks long before man's holiday. And it is God who promotes the idea of living a life where one is always thankful and grateful.

And how can one not be thankful to the God who provides all that we have and need? "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" (Psa. 100:4-5).

"Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness" (Psa. 107:8-9).

Paul admonishes us to give thanks always (Eph. 5:20). In his writings, the apostle speaks of giving thanks over and over. That is the recipe for a life of thanksgiving.

"Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name" (Heb. 13:15).