

Countdown Video Fall Tree 3
Music Video: You Are God Alone
Slide Background: Time to Give Thanks

Video Illustration: `Give Thanks

Sermon Series: Thanksgiving 11/22/2015

Title: Attitude of Gratitude

Sermon Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Big Idea: It is not hard to see that we live in a broken and wrecked world. God told us that this would happen. Jesus said in:

Matthew 24:12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. NKJV

He said that as the end draws near because lawlessness is increased the love of many will grow cold. It is very obvious we live in a wrecked world. Wrecked marriages, wrecked homes, wrecked economy, wrecked political system and the promise is that as the return of Jesus gets closer it will get worse.

Jesus promised to give us life to the full. This life to the full is not defined by the things we have or don't have. The full life is defined by how we respond to trials, temptations, tragedy and things. One of the main things that can sabotage and strangle the full life is an attitude of ungratefulness.

Dr. Adrian Rogers used to say, "God's will is what we would want for ourselves if we were smart enough to want it.

Clearly tells us a right attitude we should have in a wrecked world. "Give thanks in everything, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
Charles Haddon Spurgeon.

Read Sermon Text

1 Thessalonians 5:18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. NKJV

1. Gratitude is seeing that God is good

- a. Gratitude comes from a clear vision of who God is. The devil has always tried to destroy God's character.

**Psalms 100:1-3 (A Song of Praise for the Faithfulness to His People
A Psalm of Thanksgiving.)**

- 1 Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands!
- 2 Serve the Lord with gladness;

Come before His presence with singing.
 3 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.
 NKJV

This Psalms makes it clear that an attitude of gratitude comes from seeing that God is good. Remember Jesus wants to give you a life that is full and joyful, peaceful, powerful, purposeful, useful and faithful. The devil also wants you to have a life that is full. Satan wants you to have a life that is ungrateful. The devil knows when you ignore His will of thankfulness it will lead to darkness and destruction.

John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. NKJV

2 Thess 2:10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.
 NKJV

Tim 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, NKJV

- a) God turned them over to their own ungrateful desires. God is good enough and loves you enough to turn you over to what you worship! There is a non-believer study on the internet called 31 benefits of gratitude. [Http://happierhuman.com/benefits-of-gratitude/](http://happierhuman.com/benefits-of-gratitude/) Two of the things that this person discovered were that gratitude makes you happier and healthier. Church God wants to give you a full life!!

How can we be reminded of expressing our gratitude to God? We could wright down the things we are thankful for each day and develop and diary of gratitude. Just a few minutes a day recording the things we are thankful for could change your whole day.

Psalms 34:8 Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him! NKJV

Ps 86:5 For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive,
 And abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You. NKJV

Psalms 145:9 The Lord is good to all,
 And His tender mercies are over all His works.
 NKJV

Psalms 145:9
 9 The Lord is good to all,
 And His tender mercies are over all His works.
 NKJV

Lamentations 3:25 The Lord is good to those who wait for Him,
 To the soul who seeks Him. NKJV

“The Lord is good, a stronghold in a day of distress; He cares for those who take refuge in Him.

There are many things designed by the devil to distract us from the graciousness of God. We must cultivate a mindset of looking for God’s goodness in the mess of our lives. Remember that all things are not good. However God makes all things work to the good for those that love Him and are called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.
 NKJV

. Don’t be distracted by the momentary!! We are preparing to spend forever with God. Set your eyes on the goodness of God in Jesus, this will give you a reason to be grateful!! When we see how gracious God is gratitude is our natural response!

II. Gratitude is sharing the Lord with witness

Hebrews 13:15 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. NKJV

- a) We must cultivate the gratitude in our lives and one way to do that is to express Gods goodness to others. The more we share the more our gratitude grows. Gratitude is like a plant it must be nurtured. Watered, fertilized and cared for.
- b) Hebrews that we should offer continually a sacrifice of praise. We should verbalized it with our lips we should give thanks to God for all His goodness and care provided for us.
- c) In order to reinforce our thankfulness we must express it not only to God but to others and the writer of the book of Acts reminds that the power to share Gods greatness also comes from God through the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

What does a witness do? Witnesses tell about what they have seen and heard? We are called of God to offer a sacrifice of sharing the good things God has done in our lives. Witnessing is less about memorizing someone else's way of evangelizing and more about sharing about God's goodness and mercy in your life?

Has God done anything good in your life this week? Then share it with someone!
Has God done anything good in this church family this week? Then share it with someone!

III. Gratitude is serving the Lord with Gladness

Psalms 100:2 2 Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. NKJV

1 Thessalonians 5:18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
NKJV

And other passages in the New Testament the Greek word used for giving thanks is Eucharistic and originally meant "do a good turn to." So gratefulness is a Spirit filled attitude that leads to an appropriate Spirit filled actions – serving the Lord God with gladness. Gladness here means delight, overflowing joy, festivity, mirth or laughter.

Serving God isn't dull, dry and boring. When you get your sight right there is joy and laughter and festivity at seeing God's goodness take root in others' lives!!

Our gratitude cannot be simply tied to our good words. It is clear that God's will for us is for our gratitude to be tied to good words and good works!!

A) You can't serve God with grumbling inactivity

1) We have the example of the Israelites they complained about their food, Numbers 11:1

Numbers 11:1 Now when the people complained, it displeased the Lord; for the Lord heard it, and His anger was aroused. So the fire of the Lord burned among them, and consumed some in the outskirts of the camp.
NKJV

They complained about their hardships.

Exodus 16:12 "I have heard the complaints of the children of Israel. Speak to them, saying, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. And you shall know tha

2) We have the instruction of Paul

Philippians 2:14-15 Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, NKJV

“Do everything without grumbling and arguing, 15 so that you may be blameless and pure, children of God who are faultless in a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine like stars in the world.

1 Peter 4:9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. NKJV
 “Be hospitable to one another without complaining”

1 Corinthians 10:10 nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. NKJV

“Nor should we complain as some of them did,[f] and were killed by the destroyer.”

Ungrateful complainers are lumped in with idolaters, sexually immoral, and those desiring evil that were destroyed by God.

Life is a gift from God to be lived for God. When our mouths are full of thankfulness they can't be full of grumbling

B) You can serve God with grateful activity

1) *Give thanks in all things*

Gratitude isn't about the pain, pressure or problem you face. It is about a right attitude toward the one who controls all that is your life!! When we remember that God is in control and works all things to the good then we can give thanks in the worst and best of circumstances!!

We thank God because He causes many a tight place to open into the right place.

1 Peter 1:6-9 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith — the salvation of your souls. NKJV

Acts 26:7 To this promise our twelve tribes, earnestly serving God night and day, hope to attain. For this hope's sake, King Agrippa, I am accused by the Jews.
 NKJV

2) *Give thanks by finding your place of service*

We are taught that thankfulness should be part of worship, giving, relationships everything we do. You are not in this church by accident but by the design of God, you were called here by God to encourage, build up and give thanks to God through your service?

Serving God and His people and those around you is part of giving thanks always. Have you found your place of service?

Conclusion: It is obvious that we are to cultivate an attitude of gratitude. How do we actively make our attitude one of giving thanks?

- 1) Give Thanks in your life, "let your requests be made known to God with thanksgiving"
- 2) Sing songs of thanksgiving to the Lord
- 3) Give Thank those that do the simplest and smallest things in your life
- 4) Serve God and others. This is one of the greatest ways to give thanks. Ask God where you are to serve His body?

Charles Haddon Spurgeon: It is not how much we have, but how much we enjoy, that makes happiness.

Text Illustration:

THE POWER OF GIVING THANKS

Something to reflect on as you sit down to your Thanksgiving dinner:
If you had been a Pilgrim, would you have given thanks?

Consider what they had been through, the men and women who broke bread together on that first Thanksgiving in 1621.

They had uprooted themselves and sailed for America, an endeavor so hazardous that published guides advised travelers to the New World, "First, make thy will." The crossing was very rough and the Mayflower was blown off course. Instead of reaching Virginia, where Englishmen had settled 13 years earlier, the Pilgrims ended up in the wilds of Massachusetts. By the time they found a place to make their new home - Plymouth, they called it - winter had set in.

The storms were frightful. Shelter was rudimentary. There was little food. Within weeks, nearly all the settlers were sick. "That which was most sad and lamentable," Governor William Bradford later recalled, "was that in two or three months' time, half of their company died, especially in January and February, being the depth of winter, and wanting houses and other comforts; being infected with the scurvy and other diseases.... There died sometimes two or three of a day."

When spring came, Indians showed them how to plant corn, but their first crops were dismal. Supplies ran out, but their sponsors in London refused to send more. The first time the Pilgrims sent a shipment of goods to England, it was stolen by pirates.

If you had been there in 1621 - if you had seen half your friends die, if you had suffered through famine, malnutrition, and sickness, if you had endured a year of heartbreak and tragedy - would you have felt grateful? SOURCE: By Jeff Jacoby, Boston Globe Staff, 11/23/2000. <http://www.homiliesbyemail.com/Special/Thanksgiving/power.txt>