



THANKSGIVING

1. Definition of thanksgiving

- thankfulness
- the giving of thanks
- It is an act of worship

2. Elements of thanksgiving

- In the Old Testament, "sacrifices" of thanksgiving were offered – Jer 17:26
- God desires genuine gratefulness: from the heart – Ps 54:6
- Some were even "appointed" to the office of giving thanks – implying it was important. - 2 Chr 20:21, 1 Chr 16:4
- It is essential to abiding/dwelling in his Presence - Ps 140:1
- The wicked are ungrateful - Rom 1:21
- Every gospel depicts Jesus, who is our example, giving God thanks – Mat 15:36, Mrk 14:23, Lk 22:17, 19, Jhn 6:23

3. God commands us to be thankful

- Daniel was obedient to be thankful even when forbidden by the authorities - Dan 6:10
- It is "good" for us - Ps 92:1
- It is an important part of entering his Presence - Ps 95:2
- It causes us to abound in the faith - Col 2:7
- It honors and magnifies God - Ps 50:23
- It is God's will - 1 Thes 5:18

4. How should we give thanks?

- Audibly: with our voice, not just in our thoughts - Ps 34:1
- In verbal testimony - 1 Chr 16:8
- In music - 1 Chr 16:7
- With song - 2 Sam 22:50
- With musical instruments - Neh 12:27
- With prayer - Eph 1:16
- With shouts of joy - Ps 100:1
- Among the nations (heathen) - Ps 57:9
- In the company of God's people - 2 Chr 31:2

- Privately, at home - Dan 6:10

5. **When should we give thanks?**

- In every circumstance - Eph 5:20
- While entering his presence - Ps 95:2
- Continually; habitually - Heb 13:15

6. **For what should we give thanks?**

- For victory - 1 Cor 15:57
- For his goodness and mercy (forgiveness) - Ps 136:1-3
- For his protection - 2 Sam 22:49
- For his holiness and faithfulness - Ps 30:4
- For the wonders of creation and life - Ps 139:14
- For his truth, his righteous ordinances and judgments - Ps 119:7
- For food, drink and other provisions - Mat 15:36
- For healing - Lk 17:16-18
- For the evidence of God at work in the people of God - 1 Thes 1:2
- For spiritual gifts (i.e., speaking in tongues) and ministry - 1 Cor 14:18
- For salvation and conversion of the unsaved - Rom 6:17
- For wisdom and power - Dan 2:23
- For answered prayer - Jhn 11:41
- For everything - Eph 5:20
- For all men - 1 Tim 2:1
- For the preciousness of God's presence - Ps 75:1

7. **The secret of maintaining a grateful heart is contentment**

- Thank him daily - Ps 68:19
- Thank him no matter what happens - Phil 4:11, 1 Tim 6:6, 8; Heb 13:5

8. **This is what we will be doing "forever" in eternity**

- We will always give thanks - Ps 45:17, Ps 52:9