

Pursuing Gratefulness—November Blog

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV)

As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving—a day traditionally marked by family, friends and feast—let's remember to **pursue gratefulness**, not just on this day, but every day. Gratefulness is not just about appreciating the material things that we acquire or enjoy, but it's an *attitude of gratitude*, regardless of circumstances or environment. Gratitude is the quality of being thankful and showing appreciation. It is *intentional* acknowledgment of all that we have been given by the Giver. We can always, *always* find something for which to be thankful.

Gratitude is not just about having a good attitude without a reason behind it; because that does not last. While having a good attitude is important, there must be a reason for having it and developing it. One of the foundational disciplines of Christianity is gratitude because of the grace and mercy that has been shown us.

I've said before that your mentality will eventually become your reality. That said, when you pursue an attitude of gratitude, you are able to become victorious in any situation. Everyday God gives us opportunities to be thankful, but sometimes the baggage we carry or allow in our lives clouds our vision and prohibits us from seeing or appreciating the better side of life.

Contentment is an elusive commodity today because people are seeking more of everything; we want the biggest and best of all life has to offer. There is nothing wrong with accumulating tangible things, after all we work hard for our money. However, Christian maturity dictates that, just as Paul lived with the 'thorn in his side,' we must realize that our life is greater than our successes, failures and possessions. Life is precious and fleeting. Life also comes with sorrows, disappointments and loss. With that realization, we can and must learn to be grateful—no matter what our circumstances!

During this season of Thanksgiving, I encourage you to reflect upon and **pursue gratefulness**. What are you grateful for today? Be specific. Call it by name!

Peace and power,

Pastor Marriner