

# The Glory of Giving Thanks

- I. **Our whole Christian life is about responding in thanksgiving to God for His “incredible gift” (II Corinthians 9:10-15).**
  - A. The Corinthians gave in response to their “confession of the gospel of Christ” (vs. 13) - their thanks to God for His “incredible gift” (vs. 15).
  - B. Thanksgiving is our response to God’s generous heart. “We love, because He first loved us” (I John 4:10).
  - C. The opposite of Thanksgiving is a spirit of entitlement. It causes the heart to grow cold and the Holy Spirit to disappear.
  - D. This thing we call “salvation” is a very relational issue.
  
- II. **There is a connection between giving thanks and the presence of God (I Chronicles 16:1-14).**
  - A. New Testament Christians are called “a royal priesthood” made to “declare” the praises of God (I Peter 2:9, 10).
  - B. In the presence of God we “tell of all His wonderful acts” (I Chronicles 16:9) and “remember the wonders He has done, His miracles...” (I Chronicles 16:12).
  - C. Thanksgiving embraces the presence of God.
    1. “Enter his gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise” (Psalm 100:4).
    2. “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit” (I Thessalonians 5:16-19).
  - D. Everything hinges on Immanuel—“God With Us” (Matthew 1:23).
    1. “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift...” (Acts 1:4-8).
    2. “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed” (Acts 19:2, 5, 6)?
  - E. Moses cried out for God’s presence (Exodus 33:14-17), yet it is ingratitude and memory loss that caused the presence of God to lift for future success.
  - F. The ingratitude of Hezekiah (II Chronicles 32:24-26)
  
- III. **Thanksgiving is directly connected to breakthrough in our lives. “How you remember your last miracle is how you will face your next problem” (Bill Johnson) (Psalm 78:18-22).**
  - A. The currency of the Kingdom is “faith-filled response.”
  - B. It was a profound sense of gratitude for Peter and John’s miracle that caused the church to cry out for boldness - more breakthrough (Acts 4:27-31).
  - C. Notice the connection of thanksgiving and breakthrough in Psalm 50:7-15, 23.
  - D. Thanksgiving makes way for answers to our prayers—the very shalom of God (Philippians 4:4-9).

*Mike Hudgins  
November 11 & 12, 2017*