

Thanks for Everything

Pray without ceasing, and in everything give thanks – this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Pagan Prayers

- Shopping God
- Courting Fate
- Moral Self-Talk
- Mystical Escapes

Biblical Prayers – actually communicating with God in true relationship, that is defined by who you are talking to – An absolutely Powerful, Wise, Loving Father and by how you approach:

- 1) To GIVE devoted worship
- 2) Seek real help for real needs

1) Definition of Giving Thanks

The word used in the NT is *eucharisteo*.

charis – “grace” – something good given which is not earned or deserved (“gift”)

charisteo – (verb form) – to give a gift

eu-charisteo – good / appropriate response to a gift given

- a) Inward – to humbly receive the gift as a blessing
 1. Humility
 2. Joy
 3. Affection
- b) Outward – to express your inward response
 1. Verbally
 2. Practically
 3. Relationally

2) Calling to Give Thanks

a) Romans 1:21 – READ beginning in v. 18.

b) Hebrews 13:15

3) Why don't we?

- a) You think you are lucky
- b) You think mostly of yourself
- c) You think you deserve

*"What do you have that you have not received?
And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if
you had not received it? (1 Cor 4:7)*

- d) You think it is God's job
- e) You make it a formality

God's purpose in giving us gifts is to draw us into deeper relationship with Himself... and both the praying for our needs and the giving thanks upon receiving God's graces are designed with that end.

4) Give Thanks For what?

"in everything" – in the midst of every circumstance...

"for everything" – Eph 5:20

- a) Eternal salvation
- b) That for which we prayed
- c) Unasked for provision
- d) Food
- e) Unpleasantries
- f) Others' ministry in our lives

Praxis

1. What is one of the best material gifts another person ever gave you? How did it affect your relationship with that person?
2. We all know that outer thanks without inner heart is bad. But what is so bad about inner thanks without outward expression to God? (consider the 3 outer responses)
3. Which of the 5 reasons we don't give thanks affects you? Why / How?
4. What can you do to change this?
5. What habits / schedule might you put in place in your life/family to become more intentional about prayer & thanksgiving?
6. Plan to spend some time in your next (or present) Christian gathering reflecting together and expressing thanks for God's specific blessings.