

STOP > THINK

God has blessed us, so let us give Him thanks!



Wednesday, 11/21 at 7 PM

Thanksgiving Eve – 2018

Wednesdays in Advent – Join Us on December 5, 12, and 19

Services at 11 & 7 – Free Meals at 12 & 6

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: What kind of a person are you – **do you complain** *about what you don't have* OR **do you give thanks** *for what you do have*? The latter option is preferred, but the former option is oftentimes true.

The root problem is **sin**; therefore, *we tend to be similar to the descendants of Abraham*. These things were true for them: ♣ God had moved them from slavery to freedom and ♣ rescued them from Pharaoh's army; then God provided them with ♣ water, ♣ food, ♣ good health, ♣ protection, and ♣ countless other blessings; nevertheless, *oftentimes*, the people responded to God with ☹ complaining and ☹ all kinds of other sins.

Now, *as we consider Deuteronomy 8*, Moses is addressing the people ➡ *reminding them about the past and instructing*

them about the future. So let us understand, learn from their mistakes, count our blessings, and give thanks to God – *the giver of every good and perfect gift* (James 1:17)!

1. **God Wants to Bless Us:** ¹ **“The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers. // The “whole commandment” means *all* of God’s commandments; since He is God and loves us, we can be sure that all of His ways are best! **Knowing that**, He calls us to gladly keep them – *BECAUSE He wants to bless us in countless ways* (see Joshua 1:8).**
2. **Let Us Remember and Understand:** ² **And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. // Think back to those people in the wilderness, *there were about 3 million of them!* God wanted to bring them *right through the wilderness to the Promised Land*, yet, *because of their sin*, God led them to live and travel and camp in that difficult place for nearly 40 years! Why? To discover what was in their hearts. A person may SAY many things, *but his HEART contains his TRUTH* – and God knows every heart (1 Chron. 28:9); *so we all desperately need Jesus!***
3. **God Wants Us to Trust in Him:** ³ **And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by**

bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. // When we are proud, *we think WE can do it!* When God humbles us, *He wants us to see our inabilities and trust in Him.* So, in the wilderness, *God let them be hungry;* then He fed them – *over and over again!* As we cannot provide our food, neither can we provide our forgiveness; *so let us trust in God for everything and be thankful!*

4. **Great Is God's Faithfulness:** ⁴ **Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years.** // Even though the people deserved nothing good, God still loved them, *so He sustained their clothes and kept them healthy.* How MUCH MORE has He done for us! *So let us be thankful!*
5. **God Wants the Best for Us:** ⁵ **Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you.** // What is the purpose of discipline? A person wants to go through door number 1, but *God or a parent* knows that door number 2 is best; therefore, *God or a parent* uses discipline to try to lovingly move the person to reject door number 1 in favor of door number 2. *Discipline is love (see Revelation 3:19)!*
6. **God's Desired Response:** ⁶ **So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him.** // In other words, in response to God's discipline, we should **◆**be thankful for His love, **◆**give Him the respect He deserves, and **◆**do whatever He says – confident that His ways are best! Such things do not save us; instead, we are

GIFTED with salvation through Jesus – *BUT such things express our thankfulness!*

7. **As God Blessed Them, So He Has Blessed Us:** ⁷ **For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, ⁸ a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹ a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. // As the Promised Land was wonderful, so is the United States of America! We have ♣fresh water, ♣natural resources, ♣much food, ♣a stable economy, ♣employment opportunities, ♣excellent health care, ♣retirement income, and ♣so many other reasons to *give thanks!***
8. **Let Us Remember and Give Thanks:** ¹⁰ **And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.” // It’s so easy to focus on ♣the gifts rather than ♣the Giver; therefore, going forward, *with every blessing*, 😊let us realize that God has given it and 😊let us give Him thanks!**

Let Us Pray: Dear Father in heaven, because of Your love, *You made us – TY*; because of our nakedness, *You gave us clothes – TY*; because of our hunger, *You gave us food – TY*; because we are at risk, *You gave us shelter – TY*; because we were not meant to be alone, *You gave us relationships – TY*; and because of our sins, *You gave us Your Son – TY!!!!!!!!!!!!*

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