

New Reasons to Give Thanks

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: What *normally* encourages us to give thanks to God?

- He gives us food, so we say, “Thanks!”
- He carries us through a long day, so we say, “Thanks!”
- He heals a serious illness, so we say, “Thanks!”

In this sermon, let’s discover **New Reasons to Give Thanks!**¹

1. **Blind to Blessings:** Have you ever been outside on a clear night and failed to look up and give thanks?

- a. God made the stars on day 4 of creation (Gen. 1:16), *they are incredible!* On a clear night, *over 2,000 stars can be seen from any one location!* The stars declare *the glory of God* (Ps. 19:1)!
- b. Sadly, we are often blind to God’s amazing creation, so, let’s ♦slow down, ♦pay attention, and ♦give thanks to God!

2. **An Obsession to Give Thanks:**

- a. “Don Vicars, an Oregon police officer, was on his way to California for a Harley Davidson convention when a construction zone caused [his] group of motorcycles to stop suddenly. Don had to lay his motorcycle down

¹ Some ideas and the quotes in this sermon: <https://www.logos.com/grow/min-thanksgiving-sermon-illustrations/>

at high speed and was left with a broken shoulder, broken ribs, and a collapsed lung.”

- b. “A passerby stopped to aid Vicars. She told him her name, Sally, and said she was a registered nurse. She cradled him in his pain and assured him that help was on the way. When paramedics arrived, Vicars was airlifted to a hospital where he spent 10 days.”
- c. When he recovered, he was obsessed with finding Sally to express his thanks. He even ran an ad in the local paper, asking anyone who knew Sally to contact him.
- d. What has the LORD done for us? We have:
 - i. Life in our bodies!
 - ii. Food, clothing, and shelter!
 - iii. Eternal life through Jesus!
 - iv. And so much more!

Therefore, *let us be obsessed with giving Him thanks!*

3. **Growing Gratitude:**

- a. “Some flowers, vegetables, and herbs grow better together. They don’t just tolerate one another; they encourage one another’s health and fruitfulness....”
- b. “The same is true in our [lives]. Faith, humility, and thankfulness are companion practices, supporting and sustaining one another. As one increases, so do the others.” // Let’s think about those key words:
 - i. Faith: It’s ✦given by God and ✦*in Jesus for eternal life*.

- ii. Humility: As our faith grows, we also grow in our humility, that is, *in our reliance on God*.
- iii. Thankfulness: As we grow in faith and in humility, *we grow in our understanding of God's* ♦love, ♦power, ♦control, and ♦provision. As we ponder such things, *we will certainly see an increase in our attitude of gratitude!*

4. **Thankful In the Storm:**

- a. "A man invited a friend to go hear a preacher, saying, 'I want you to hear the most thankful preacher I've ever heard.' The two men weathered a storm to hear him preach. On the way they thought nobody would be there.... But when they got to the little country church, there was the preacher seated on the platform. The stranger said to his friend, 'He has nobody to preach to. There's a storm outside. It looks like we will have a flood. He won't have anything to be thankful for tonight.' 'Yes, he will. He'll thank God for something.'"
- b. "When the preacher stood up, he bowed his head and prayed, "Dear Lord, it is stormy outside. It looks as if the roads will wash away before we can get out of the church tonight. It's an awful storm. But we're thankful that it's not always this way."
- c. Let us **know** and **live** the Bible: 1 Thessalonians 5:18 "...in **everything** give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (NAS-95).
 - i. If it's 6 inches of snow, *thank Him it wasn't 12!*
 - ii. If it's cancer, *thank Him it's not stage 4!*

5. **Matthew Henry's Gratitude:** "...the famous Bible expositor, was once accosted by thieves and robbed of his pocketbook. He wrote these lines in his diary: Let me be thankful,
- a. first, because I was never robbed before;
 - b. second, because, although they took my purse, they did not take my life;
 - c. third, because, although they took my all, it was not much; and
 - d. fourth, because it was I who was robbed, not I who robbed."
6. **Let Us Think and Give Thanks to God:**
- a. "If we happen to be in an accident by railway, we feel so grateful that our limbs are not broken. [Therefore,] should we not be [even more] thankful when there is no accident?"
 - b. "If you were to fall into poverty, and someone were to restore you to your former position..., you would be very grateful. [Therefore,] should you not be [even more] grateful that you have not fallen into poverty?"

Let Us Pray: Dear Father in heaven, since You know and do all that is best, work within us to recognize Your blessings and express our hearty thanks ♦**when You have given us a gift** and ♦**when You have kept us from national crisis, physical harm, or spiritual ruin.** *Help us to keep giving You our thanks!*

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