

Being truly Thankful

Thankfulness, what are we truly thankful for? Do we appreciate what we are given, what we have and are able to give and do? The good thing that we have in life always seems to be 'second nature' to have and we happen to be used to just having it and using it, until it's taken away from us. Why is it that we only realise what we have when we see someone who is struggling or has a health problem? We seem to spend so long in prayer asking God for what we want and what others around us need, however, how long do we spend in prayer thanking the Lord for what we currently have and for previous answered prayer. Being like this it seems like we have too many similarities with spoiled children. Children who persistently ask for things that they want and need, and once they get it given to them they say a quick thank you or even sometimes they don't acknowledge what they have been given and then straight after start asking for the next thing that they want, yet the child forgets all the necessities that it has already been given like the roof over its head, the food on the table, clothing etc.

When we think about it, it is so selfish of us to not be truly thankful for all that we already have, and just moan on the things that we 'don't' have. **Jeremiah Ch45v3 - Thou didst say, Woe is me now! for the LORD hath added grief to my sorrow; I fainted in my sighing, and I find no rest.**

We all feel sorry for ourselves when we don't have something that we would really like, we also begin to question why the Lord will not give us the desire of our heart, as in our mind we see no problem in having it! We seem to so easily forget that God is only doing what is best for us even though we can't see it. Keith Green had a great verse in his song called 'Trials turned to Gold' which I thought was great, it goes...

*The view from here is nothing near to what it is for you.
I've tried to see your plan for me but I only acted like I knew.
Oh Lord, forgive the time, I tried to read your mind.
'cus you said if I be still then I will hear your voice.*

It really is SO important to realise that the Lord knows best in everything and that there will always be a reason why God hasn't answered a specific prayer that you have been praying to be answered. If you are not thankful to God for what he has provided for you, it gets to a point where you could feel like you no longer feel a need for God. If you feel you have nothing to be thankful for and that praying doesn't necessarily mean God will answer it for you, you would feel that you then have no need to speak and have fellowship with Him, it can be very dangerous to get to this point.

Romans Ch1v21 - Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. But we thank God for his mercy upon us and that he still keeps us in His heart even though we easily reject Him. **Colossians Ch3v15 - And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.** **Psalms Ch100v4 - Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.** **Psalms Ch30v12 - To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever.**

And there are many more verses in the Bible that talk about being thankful to God. We should be thankful for the eyes that we have to see and the cloths we have on our back, we must be comfortable with what we have and not moan that we don't have what someone else has, God has given what we have/don't have for a reason and we must respect that. By being truly thankful to the Lord we would want to do all we can to please Him and show we are truly thankful, so we would tract and witness for the Lord, as we know that this is what the Lord wants us to do for Him. In some ways it's like saying we are repaying the Lord for all he has done and continually gives to us – although I know that we are not able to pay the Lord back for what He has done for us, but I guess in some ways it's like a second nature for us to want to please the person back who has pleased us

also. Therefore we should do what we know pleases the Lord – from reading to praying to tracking to witnessing to being a good example to others etc. The list goes on. Let us show the Lord how thankful we really are...

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