

“Unashamed – The Power to Give” Part 8

“Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18 NLT

A. God is calling us to a lifestyle of thanksgiving...

1. Giving thanks is commanded!

“Be thankful...”

What do you speak of more: your trouble or your gratefulness?

2. Giving thanks in all circumstances is commanded!

“Be thankful in all circumstances...”

When do you give thanks: only when things are good or in all things?

3. Giving thanks in all circumstances is the will of God!

“Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you...”

Why do you always ask for God’s will in your life when you aren’t willing to follow what He has given thus far?

4. Giving thanks is our identity!

“Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.”

How would you be described by those closest to you- as a grateful person? What is one of your most common identifying characteristics? Gratefulness??

B. Giving thanks during troubled times...

Acts 16:22-30

1. When Paul and Silas were severely beaten and in pain, they chose to sing praise!

“They were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison....into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks. Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God...”

2. Their act of thanksgiving amidst trial became a testimony to all those around them!

“and the other prisoners were listening.”

3. Their act of thanksgiving amidst great pain shook the very foundations of their world.

“Suddenly there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations.”

4. Their act of thanksgiving caused others to want the same faith that they had.

“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

C. Giving of your resources brings thanksgiving to others...

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

1. God loves a generous giver!

“But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop.”

2. God loves a cheerful giver!

“For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.”

3. God will bless a generous giver!

“And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.”

4. God will cause thanksgiving in others through your generosity!

“So two good things will result from this ministry of giving-the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God.”

D. So...let thanksgiving begin...

“And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful. Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with

thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.” Colossians 3:15-17

1. Start expressing thanks with your words.

“Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God.” Philippians 1:3

2. Start writing thanks to those in your world.

“We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly.” 1 Thessalonians 1:2

3. Start demonstrating thanks by being generous to others.

“At the moment I have all I need- and more! I am generously supplied with the gifts you sent me with Epaphroditus. They are a sweet-smelling sacrifice that is acceptable and pleasing to God.” Philippians 4:18

4. Start living thanks, no matter the circumstances!

“And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 5:20

“Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to His name.” Hebrews 13:15

