

I. GIVING THANKS TO GOD IS A FORM OF WORSHIP

- A. In the tabernacle of David, specific individuals were designated by name to give thanks (1 Chron 16:4, 7, 8, 41).

1 Chronicles 16:4 And he appointed some of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, to commemorate, to thank, and to praise the LORD God of Israel.

*1 Chronicles 16:41 and with them Heman and Jeduthun and the rest who were chosen, who were designated by name, to give thanks to the LORD, **BECAUSE His mercy endures forever.***

- B. The dominant refrain of worship in the OT is:

*Psalms 136:1 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! **FOR His mercy endures forever.***

1. Giving thanks is tied in with the revelation of the goodness of God and His everlasting love (1 Chron 16:4; Ps. 136:1). If we do not give thanks, it's because we have not experienced the goodness of God.

- C. "Yad" in Hebrew means hand.

1. "to give thank" = yadah! The root of the word probably means to: "to throw, or cast." Lift up hands or shoot, throw the hands. The word occurs almost 100x's in the OT. The English translates it sometimes as "give thanks" sometimes as "praise."
2. In the OT, one of the words for thanksgiving means to raise hands. When the OT says "Give Thanks!" it also means to lift your hands in thanksgiving.

II. GIVING THANKS IS A CHARACTERISTIC OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

- A. Most of the Epistles begin with thanking God for what He is doing (1 Cor 1:4; Phil 1:3; Col 1:3; 1 Thes 1:2; 2 Thes 1:3; 2 Tim 1:3; Phm 1:4)

- B. Not giving thanks is one of the common characteristics of those who reject God.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

- C. Daniel had a regular pattern of prayer and thanksgiving.

Daniel 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.

1. We make schedules for important things. Do we take time to give thanks?
- D. We must develop a regular spirit of thanksgiving in our daily prayers.

Colossians 4:2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving.

- E. Thanksgiving is fitting. Other things are out of place.

Ephesians 5:4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

III. THANKSGIVING RELEASES GOD'S MIRACULOUS PROVISION

- A. Jesus gave thanks before the multiplication of bread and fish (Mt 14:19, 15:36; John 6:11, 23). The fact that Jesus gave thanks is highlighted and emphasized in all the accounts.

1. Question: What did Jesus give thanks for and how did He do it that it was such a memorable event?
2. Jesus gives thanks unto multiplication vs. Israel grumbles and complains before and after provision of manna.

Exodus 15:24 And the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?"

- a. Rather than just say: Thank you! You did it before. I will trust in You.

IV. WE ARE COMMANDED TO GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES

- A. When we do not know what to do, when we do not know God's will for our lives.

1. We may not always know God's revealed will for our lives in every detail, but it is always God's will for us to thank Him in every circumstance.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Ephesians 5:20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. We cannot control our circumstances but we can choose our reactions.
- B. When we are tempted to be anxious or worry.

1. Giving thanks is an antidote to a spirit of worry and anxiety. We can get worried when things are not going well. Some even worry when things are going well that things will not always go well.

Philippians 4:6 Be with thanksgiving anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, , let your requests be made known to God.

- C. When you desire to come into the presence of God: Giving thanks ushers us into the presence of God, bringing a fresh revelation of the presence of God.

Psalms 100:4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

- D. Make today the day that you give thanks. Looking back upon this time, you will remember it as the season that you gave thanks in the midst of trial.

John 6:23 However, other boats came from Tiberias, near the place where they ate bread after the Lord had given thanks.