

Being Thankful – Biblically

What the Bible teaches about Thankfulness:

Thank Offerings were a type of OT Fellowship (or Peace) Offering

Psalm 50:23 He who sacrifices thank offerings honors me, and he prepares the way so that I may show him the salvation of God.

Leviticus 7:11-21, 2 Chronicles 29:31, 33:16, Psalm 50:14, 56:12, 107:22, 116:17, Jeremiah 17:26, 33:11, Amos 4:5

Giving Thanks was one of the Responsibilities of the Levites

1 Chronicles 23:30-31a [The duty of the Levites] was also to stand every morning to thank and praise the LORD. They were to do the same in the evening and whenever burnt offerings were presented to the LORD on Sabbaths and at New Moon festivals and at appointed feasts. ^{Nehemiah 12:8}

David wrote a Psalm of Thanks

1 Chronicles 16:7-8 That day David first committed to Asaph and his associates this psalm of thanks to the LORD: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. ^{1 Chronicles 16:7-36 (Psalm 105:1-15, 96:1-13, 106:1, 47-48)}

David gave a Prayer of Thanks to God at the end of his Life

1 Chronicles 29:13 Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.

Thanksgiving was offered at the Dedication of Solomon's Temple

2 Chronicles 7:3 When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the glory of the LORD above the temple, they knelt on the pavement with their faces to the ground; they worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD, saying, "He is good; his love endures forever."

Thanks were given at the Dedication of the Rebuilt Wall of Jerusalem

Nehemiah 12:27 At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, the Levites were sought out from where they lived and were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate joyfully the dedication with songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps and lyres.

Thanking God and Praising God go Hand-in-Hand

Nehemiah 12:46 For long ago, in the days of David and Asaph, there had been directors for the singers and for the songs of praise and thanksgiving to God.

^{1 Chronicles 16:4,35, 23:30, 29:13, 2 Chronicles 5:13, 20:21, 31:2, Ezra 3:11, Nehemiah 12:24, Psalm 7:17, 28:6-7, 35:18, Psalm 69:30, 100:4, 106:1,47, Daniel 2:23, Revelation 7:12}

The Bible teaches the importance of Giving Thanks for Sustenance

Earthly: Acts 27:35 After he said this, [Paul] took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat.

^{Matthew 14:19, 15:36, Mark 6:41, 8:6-7, Luke 9:16, 24:30, John 6:11}

Heavenly: Mark 14:22-23 While eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it. ^{Matthew 26:26-27, Luke 22:17-19}

Thanks to God flow from a Dedicated Life to Jesus

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Gratefulness comes from Receiving Salvation

Psalm 118:21 I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation. ^{1 Corinthians 15:57}

Those who are Saved also offer Thanks for Heaven

Hebrews 12:28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful...

The Privilege of being used in the Work of Jesus' Kingdom results in Giving Thanks

1 Timothy 1:12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service.

Believers are Thankful for the Ruling and Reigning of Jesus

Revelation 11:17 We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.

Saints Give Thanks for Other Believers

Ephesians 1:16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. Acts 28:15, Romans 1:8, 1 Corinthians 1:4, Philippians 1:3, Colossians 1:3, 1 Thessalonians 1:2, 2 Thessalonians 1:3, Philemon 1:4

The Appropriate response to Trials is Prayer that includes Being Thankful

Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Thanksgiving is a Significant aspect of Powerful Prayer

Colossians 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. Nehemiah 11:17, Psalm 95:2, 100:4, Daniel 6:10, Philippians 4:6, 1 Timothy 2:1, Philemon 1:4

Answered Prayer leads to Thanksgiving

John 11:41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me."

Heartfelt Gratitude is Essential after a Healing

Luke 17:16 [The healed leper] threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him...

The Expectation of God is that Everyone will Express Thanksgiving in Every Situation

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Thanks are given for the Greatest Gift of all: Jesus Christ

2 Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

In Summary, all of God's Creation should simply be Thankful for Everything

Ephesians 5:19b-20 Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.