

Be Thankful Always:

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Intro: Thanksgiving day is celebrated every second Monday in October as “a day of general thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed.” While this mandate for Thanksgiving may not be observed by all Canadians in its entirety, the ideas of being thankful, spending time with family and sharing a delicious meal remain.

~ As Christians how do we see celebrate this day? Should be a one-time, once-a-year type thing? should it be all about the meals we eat? again whom should we give thanks to and why?

~ These are penetrating, searching questions and deserve honest and basic examination.

~The Bible both in the old and new testaments admonishes believers to cultivate a heart of gratitude to God at all times. David in OT and Paul in NT talk so much about thankfulness. (I like the word thankfulness to be full of thanksgiving)

~David in the Psalms declared " I will bless the LORD at all times;

His praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.

² My soul shall make its boast in the LORD;

The humble shall hear *of it* and be glad. (Ps 34:1-2)

~ In another place he said " Bless the Lord all my soul and forget not all his benefits"

~ Th child of God must have an attitude of gratitude to God and all that He has brought along our way. The strength we have, the families, children, spouses, grandchildren, friends, church families and the list could go on.

~ The scripture says to give thanks at all times, how do you know our journey here on earth is characterized by thanksgiving?

3 Principles of a heart of gratitude

1. When you are controlled/filled by the Spirit of God, thanksgiving is the result

Ephesians 5:18-20 Nkjv" ¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the

Lord, ²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"

~ Elaborate on the "ing"(present Participle) speaking, singing, making, and giving.

It's used when we want to explain what something is generally used for or what its purpose is.

~ When you're filled with the Spirit of God you have the attitude of gratitude.

2. When you Commit to the Word of God, thanksgiving is the result. (Colosians 3:16-17 nkjv)

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. ¹⁷ And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

~ This Scripture talks about being filled with the word of God. Ephesians 5:18-20 says if you're filled with the Spirit and Colossians says if you're filled with the word.

~ The truth is that a Spirit-filled Christian is also a scripture-filled Christian. You can not have one and leave the other.

~As we continually stay with the Word of God we become aware of His Godly presence and it motivates us to live a righteous life

~One preacher has said a sure sign of carrying a bucket full of water is wet feet. Whenever we carry a bucket full of water to clean the floor or wash the car we always get wet feet.

~When the bucket of our lives is filled with the Spirit and the Word of God. We always see an overflow of thanksgiving, love and peace.

~ Have you been around people like that? People whose life is seasoned with salt, and humble, are mostly gracious to others.

~This thanksgiving day be that person for your spouse, children, grandchildren, coworker or someone in your community.

3) When you are characterized by peace, thanksgiving is the result. Colossians 3:15 nkjv

¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

~ The Spirit+ the Word+ Peace are all characterized by the attitude of gratitude.

~ The peace of God is transferable to others, the overflow of the presence of God in our lives.

~ Paul said to Colossians let this peace "rule" the rule is greek work that translates empire. To let the peace empire, spread and take root in our hearts and also to give thanks at all times.

Continuous thanksgiving to God brings:

1. Awareness of God's goodness, Mercy, Faithfulness and Kindness
2. It brings the awareness of our own limitations: (I'm not here by my doing)

3. It keeps us aware of God and victory in this life.

Be grateful unto God at all times and the many precious people that Lord has brought into your life always. This is a will of God for me and you Amen!