



Thanksgiving Proclamation & The Effects of Praise!

Proclamation of Thanksgiving

Washington, D.C.

October 3, 1863

This is the proclamation which set the precedent for America's national day of Thanksgiving. During his administration, President Abraham Lincoln issued many orders similar to this. For example, on November 28, 1861, he ordered government departments closed for a local day of thanksgiving.

Sarah Josepha Hale, a 74-year-old magazine editor, wrote a letter to Lincoln on September 28, 1863, urging him to have the "day of our annual Thanksgiving made a National and fixed Union Festival." She explained, "You may have observed that, for some years past, there has been an increasing interest felt in our land to have the Thanksgiving held on the same day, in all the States; it now needs National recognition and authoritative fixation, only, to become permanently, an American custom and institution."

Prior to this, each state scheduled its own Thanksgiving holiday at different times, mainly in New England and other Northern states. President Lincoln responded to Mrs. Hale's request immediately, unlike several of his predecessors, who ignored her petitions

altogether. In her letter to Lincoln she mentioned that she had been advocating a national thanksgiving date for 15 years as the editor of Godeys Lady's Book.

The document below sets apart the last Thursday of November "as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise." According to an April 1, 1864, letter from John Nicolay, one of President Lincoln's secretaries, this document was written by Secretary of State William Seward, and the original was in his handwriting. On October 3, 1863, fellow Cabinet member Gideon Welles recorded in his diary how he complimented Seward on his work. A year later the manuscript was sold to benefit Union troops.

By the President of the United States of America.

A Proclamation.

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battle-field; and the

country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom. No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty-eighth.

By the President: Abraham Lincoln

William H. Seward,
Secretary of State

The Effects of Praise

By Michael J. Burns

- Giving Thanks unto God is a way to reconnect with God as an individual or a nation!

- Thanksgiving is like a pulse in the life of a person. The level of your Christian experience and your spiritual health is revealed by the amount of gratitude you have towards God!

2 Timothy 3:1-5

1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, **UNTHANKFUL**, unholy,

3 Without natural affection (***Not getting along with blood relatives***), trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. KJV

2 Timothy 3:1-5 from the New Living Translation

1 You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times.

2 For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and **UNGRATEFUL**. They will consider nothing sacred.

3 They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good.

4 They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God.

5 They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that! NLT

- Giving God thanks is a measure of how connected you are to Him!

****Think about the children of Israel when they left Egypt and entered the promised land. Once when they were under the harshness of Egyptian taskmasters they are now living under the providence of God and could not be content or thankful for the provision of God!**

Psalm 78:25b

25 ...they did eat Angels food...

- Here they were living in the midst of Miracles and could not find a reason to Thank God!
- Even if you are going through a difficult time there are reasons you could thank God. Thank Him for His promises.

*When the Pilgrims celebrated their first Thanksgiving in 1621, half their original group had died. Our forebears were able to focus on God's goodness and mercy even in the midst of trials. Perhaps they took a lesson from Paul and Silas who, while in chains in the prison at Philippi, "prayed, and sang praises unto God" (**Acts 16:25**). Or perhaps they were simply following the instruction of **Philippians 2:5**, which says, "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus." It was Christ Who, knowing exactly what lay ahead, gave thanks on the very night in which He was betrayed.*

As Christians, we're called beyond simple thanks for the good things God has sent our way. We're also to give thanks for what He has done for us...and for who He is.

Here are some verses on the Effects of Praise;

Romans 8:18

18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. KJV

- Praise and Thanksgiving are decisions that we make and should do consistently.

Colossians 2:6-7

6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

7 Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, ***abounding therein with thanksgiving.*** KJV

***A person abounding in faith will be thankful!*

Romans 4:19-21

19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about a hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:

20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, ***giving glory to God;***

21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. KJV

- A person in Faith will continually thank God.

Matthew 21:16

16 And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, ***Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise...*** KJV

Psalms 8:2

2 Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. KJV

****One effect of Praise, Worship and Thanksgiving is that it causes 2 things; STRENGTH & IT STOPS THE DEVIL IN HIS TRACKS!**

- That is why he wanted to cease being the lead worshiper in heaven and wanted to receive worship.

Isaiah 14:13-14 - Satan cannot stand to see people praise God!

13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. KJV

****In fact we know that although Lucifer had 5 'I Wills', God had 5 'I Wills' of His own in response as found in **Ezekiel 28:16-19.****

Psalm 22:3

3 But thou art holy, O thou that **inhabitest**(***Literally, Enthroned Upon***) the praises of Israel. KJV

- When we worship God in Spirit and in Truth as Jesus said in **John 4:23-24**, we are literally building God a throne of praise that He will come and sit upon. Our corporate, as well as our individual worship, does as much for us or more than it does for our Heavenly Father!

Zephaniah 3:17

17 The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing. KJV

17 The LORD your God is in your midst, A victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, **He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy.** NASS

The original Hebrew language paints the picture of God dancing over us with shouts of joy and singing!

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