



10 Bible Reasons To Be Thankful

By Michael J Burns

When the Pilgrims celebrated their first Thanksgiving in 1621, half their original group had died. In spite of these tragic circumstances they 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.

Scripture gives us so many examples of why we are to be thankful.

HERE ARE 10 BIBLE REASONS WE SHOULD EXPRESS OUR THANKS;

1. **We can be thankful because God has given us His unfailing love**
- **Psalm 107; John 3:16; John 17:23; 1 John 3:1.**

John 17:23

*23 I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that **you love them as much as you love me.** NLT*

**God the Father loves you and me exactly the same way that He loves the Lord Jesus Christ! Let that sink into your heart as you meditate in that reality.

- To think that you are loved by the Father God as much as He loves His Only Begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ might be difficult for some to accept. This is where we must learn to believe about ourselves what God has declared in His Word concerning us!

2. We can be thankful because God has given us His divine Grace - John 1:14; 1 Corinthians 1:4; and Ephesians 2:8-9.

- We are told in scripture that Jesus was full of **grace** and truth. Truth without **grace** is nothing but law and cannot bring a person eternal life. God wants us to understand what He requires of us but through Christ we have the **grace** to live it out in our daily lives!

Q: What is the Grace of God?

A: There are several Greek words in the New Testament for 'Grace' but we will focus on the most common one which is *CHARIS*.

- *CHARIS* is found in the 3 references above. Grace is more than a feeling. It is a divine action of God on man's behalf. It may produce a good feeling in our new outlook on life but grace is God's part or response to the needs of humankind.

**Every thing that God does in Grace MUST be received by Us through Faith! Andrew Wommack says that grace and faith are like the elements of sodium and chloride. Too much of either one will prove to be deadly to your physical body. When put together they become table salt and without NACL our bodies could not function or survive!

Faith alone or Grace alone will not get the job done that God intended for you and me. ***Understand that Grace is God's part and Faith, which comes from God and His Word, is really our part!*** Forgiveness, physical & emotional healing, prosperity, the Holy Spirit's inner workings, love, joy and peace and so much more are ALL a part of God's amazing grace! We get in on it by faith!

3. We can be thankful because God has already given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! 1 Corinthians 15:57.

57 But ***thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*** NKJV

4. We can be thankful because God has given to us *His Exceeding Great and Precious Promises.* Psalm 119:62; 2 Corinthians 1:20; Romans 10:17

2 Peter 1:4.

4 Whereby are given unto us **exceeding great and precious promises**: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. KJV

5. We can be thankful because God has welcomed us into His wonderful family. Romans 8:15; Galatians 4: 6; Ephesians 1:6; & Ephesians 3:14-15.

*****The Father God did NOT send His only begotten Son into the earth to build an army but to recover a family that had been lost!***

- When a person refuses Christ they become a participant in Satan's anarchy against God. When they die in this earthly life without receiving God's FREE gift of eternal life they are robbing heaven of their presence even though God wants them there! ***God is looking for those who will join His family...He wants to populate heaven and plunder hell!***

**If you do not yet have a relationship with the Lord Jesus then visit our website that can help you discover the life you were born to live. Visit www.mjbministries.org/connect-with-jesus/ today to begin a new life with Jesus as your personal Lord & Savior! Welcome to the Family of God!

6. We can be thankful because God has invited us to have fellowship with himself and PRAY - Proverbs 15:26; Matthew 18:19-20; Mark 11:24; 2 Corinthians 13:14 & 1 John 5:13-15.

Prayer, in it's simplest meaning, is fellowshipping with God. It is where you talk to God and He talks to you. Prayer is NOT a monologue where you do all of the talking but prayer is a dialogue. It is a means of communication and intimate communion with Him. Prayer is not about you bringing a list of things that you need to God's attention. He already knows what you have need of before you ask Him.

How would you enjoy your children coming to you every time with a list of needs they have? God certainly does not mind you bringing your needs to Him in prayer but if that is all you do then you are missing out on one of the Christian life's greatest joys of spending time in His presence.

John Wesley said, '*It seems as though God can do nothing for man on the earth, unless someone asks Him to do it!*'

Man has a power with God called PRAYER. While there are different kinds of Prayer like there are different kinds of sports, we need to learn the rules concerning each kind of praying. You wouldn't play one sport by another sports rules because if you did then you would have confusion. Scripture tells us in **1 Corinthians 14:33** that God is NOT the author of confusion but of Peace as in ALL churches of the saints.

7. We can be thankful to God because we have been redeemed - Job 19:25; Psalm 107:1-3; 1 Corinthians 1:30; Galatians 3:13-14, 29; Ephesians 1:7; & Colossians 1:14.

Job 19:25

25 For I know *that* my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; NKJV

We have a living Redeemer who has paid such a dear price for our lives, not only on the earth but to be experienced throughout eternity. Some do not like the idea of a ***blood bought religion*** and would like the church to eliminate it from our vocabulary. Yet the freedom we enjoy in the United States was bought with the ***blood*** of past generations of men & women who have given their lives and sacred honor on the stage of battle.

Remember that ***without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins (Hebrews 9:22).***

Have You Heard About The BLOOD OF THE OVERCOMER?

Dr. Felix Ruh, a Jewish doctor in Paris, had a granddaughter who died of black diphtheria. Vowing to find out what had killed her, he locked himself in his laboratory for days and emerged with a fierce determination to prove, with his colleague, Louis Pasteur, *the germ theory of disease*. **The medical association had disapproved of Pasteur and had succeeded in getting him exiled, but he hid in the forest near Paris and erected a laboratory for his forbidden research.**

Twenty beautiful horses were led out into the forest to the improvised laboratory. Scientists, doctors, and nurses came to watch the experiment. Ruh opened a steel vault and took out a large pail filled with black diphtheria germs, which he had cultured carefully for months. There were enough germs in that pail to kill everyone in France.

The scientist went to each horse and swabbed its nostrils, tongue, throat, and eyes with the deadly germs. Every horse except one developed a terrific fever and died. Most of the doctors and scientists wearied of the experiment, and did not remain for what they thought would be the death of the remaining horse.

For several more days this final horse lingered, lying pathetically on the ground. While Ruh, Pasteur, and several others were sleeping on cots in the stables, the orderly on duty had been instructed to awaken the scientists should there be any change in the animal's temperature during the night. About two a.m., the temperature showed a half degree decrease, and the orderly wakened Dr. Ruh. By morning the thermometer had dropped two more degrees. By night the fever was entirely gone, and the horse was able to stand, eat, and drink.

Then Dr. Ruh took a sledgehammer and struck that beautiful horse a deathblow between the eyes. The scientists drew blood from the veins of this animal that had developed the black diphtheria but had overcome it. They drove as fast as they could to the Paris municipal hospital, and forced their way past the superintendent and the guards. *They went into the ward where three hundred babies lay, segregated to die from black diphtheria. With the blood of the horse, they inoculated every one of the babies. All but three lived and recovered completely.*

Exhausted, Drs. Ruh and Pasteur were leaving the hospital with a deep sense of satisfaction and success. Doctor's and other medical staff asked them as they were leaving, *What was it that saved those children?* Their response rings true for every believer today. They responded that it was ***The blood of the overcomer that saved them.***

The blood of an Overcomer has also spiritually saved many people. He too had to die to bring life to others...His Name is Jesus our Redeemer!

**8. We can be thankful that God has given to each of us an
Inheritance - Acts 20:32; Acts 26:18; Ephesians 1:11, 14, 18;
Colossians 1:12; 1 Peter 1:4.**

One of my favorite stories goes back hundreds of years ago in Scotland. The Church of England controlled what has been known as the British Isle's of which Scotland was a part. There were strict laws in place that forbade the practice of any religious gatherings that were not sanctioned by the Church of England.

There was a group of Christian believer's who secretly met called, *The Covenanter's*. These believer's had a strong belief in the Bible especially in the New Testament/Covenant. One day a young Christian woman was going to the secret gathering place through the hill country of Scotland when out from the tree's came an armed British soldier. News had gotten out that there was a seditious faction of Christian believers who were meeting in the area.

The soldier began to interrogate the young lady and demanded that she tell him where she was going? She thought to herself that she did not want to lie being a Christian so she prayed inside her heart that the Lord would give her wisdom.

Suddenly, with godly inspiration, she told the soldier that her elder brother had died and she was going to meet with her family for the reading of the will. She told the soldier that they were going to find out what their brother had left them and what they would receive from his inheritance. The soldier said, 'YOU MAY PASS!'

She didn't lie because her family was her brothers & sisters in Christ. Their elder brother who had died was the Lord Jesus Christ. The reading of the will was the reading of the Bible because they were going to find out about the inheritance that Jesus had left for them as the church!

9. We can be thankful because God is *FAITHFUL!* - 1 Corinthians 1:9; 10:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:24; 2 Thessalonians 3:3; 2 Timothy 2:13; 1 John 1:9 & Revelation 19:11.

2 Timothy 2:13

13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.
NKJV

This verse tells us something extraordinary. This is God speaking to His Children, not necessarily the unchurched or the unbeliever. These are people who have been born again but they have somehow arrived at a place referred to as a ***crisis of faith!***

We are told that God understands our human frame and that we are really nothing but dust on the outside. ***So when we are faithless, for whatever reason, we are told that God remains faithful and He will not deny us because, in essence, he would be denying HIMSELF!***

10. We can be thankful because *GOD IS GOOD!* - Psalm 34:8; 100:5; 145:9; & Acts 10:38

Psalm 100:5

5 For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations. KJV

If you study the history of the Pentecostal church you will find many segments of the church that based their beliefs on the **outside actions** of man and not the New Creation he was on the **inside!** The unintended consequence was that people began to have a view of God as being judgmental, ready to pounce on us if we committed some type of violation.

The picture the early Pentecostals had of God was one that made Him out to be like the devil in disguise. He was the one killing, stealing

and bringing destruction to our lives. Putting sickness and disease on people thus causing a skewed view of who He really is... ***God is Good and God is Love!*** Man-made religion will always give an unbiblical view of who God is and what God is willing to do.

So do what the psalmist says in **Psalm 34:8, *O taste and see that the Lord is GOOD: blessed is the man that trusteth in him. KJV***

** If this message has helped you in any way please let us know by sending your comments to Rev. Michael J. Burns at mjbcjf@gmail.com. Please also consider supporting MJB Ministries both Prayerfully and Financially by donating on our website: www.mjbmministries.org/giving today!