

Thankful or Unthankful?
Ephesians 5:17-21

One of the characteristics of a life controlled by the Holy Spirit is an attitude of continual thankfulness.

The Filling of the Holy Spirit Is the _____ Element in Living the Christian Life

1. Thanklessness Is Characteristic of Unbelievers

A Core Heart Issue of the Unsaved

Romans 1:20-22, "although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts."

An unsaved person refuses to acknowledge God as the source of all things. They are not thankful because they do not glorify Him as God.

• **We live in an increasingly unthankful _____**

2 Timothy 3:1-2, "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of themselves....unthankful, unholy."

Just as thanklessness is the essence of an unregenerate heart, thankfulness is the essence of a regenerated heart.

An Unthankful Christian Is a Living _____

2. Thanklessness Is Symptomatic of Believers

We Are Not Naturally Thankful

• **Thanksgiving is an _____**

To give thanks is to recognize and appreciate God's blessings in our lives. We give thanks "to God the Father".

Four times Psalm 107 repeats, "Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!" Psalm 103:2, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits."

We Become Unthankful When We Are _____ of God's Blessings

• **Thanksgiving is an _____**

We are "giving thanks" primarily through prayer.

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

Paul connects joy with prayer and thanksgiving.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-19, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit."

A joyless Christian is an unthankful person. Thanklessness quenches the Spirit and hinders His fruit in our lives.

We Become Unthankful When We _____ Prayer

• **Thanksgiving is an _____**

A spirit that is "giving thanks always" can only be generated by the Holy Spirit in the believer's heart. Paul is not speaking about some kind of religious ritual. Paul connects thanksgiving with the heart.

Colossians 3:15, "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful."

In scripture the heart is who I am at the core of my being. Continual thanksgiving is a spiritual heart attitude. Paul spoke of having a "pure heart", 2 Timothy 2:11. This is a heart that has been cleansed by confession of sin, 1 John 1:9. My level of thankfulness is an indicator of the spiritual condition of my heart.

We Become Unthankful When Our Walk with the Lord Becomes _____

3. Thankfulness Is Characteristic of Spiritual Believers

Two Categories of Thanksgiving

• **Thanksgiving in times of _____**

This is when it is easy to be thankful.

Psalm 50:14, "Offer to God thanksgiving."

Psalm 95:2, "Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving."

Psalm 100:4, "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving."

Hebrews 13:15, "Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name."

Thanksgiving _____ the Heart of God

- **Thanksgiving in times of _____**

This is when it is hard to be thankful.

1 Thessalonians 5:18, "in everything give thanks." The word used in this verse means in connection with everything that occurs. Both verses teach that no matter what happens to us in this life we are to be thankful "in" it and even "for" it.

We Can Do This Because of What Jesus Christ Has

Because of the Gospel Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to enable and empower us. John 16:7, "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you."

The Holy Spirit through the Word of God enables us to look beyond our circumstances and trust in the sovereignty of God.

Ecclesiastes 7:14, "In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: surely God has appointed the one as well as the other." Romans 8:28-29, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son."

Thanksgiving All the Time Is Preparation for Thanksgiving in _____ Times

The example of Daniel 6:10.