Our Grateful “Yet” of Thanksgiving
Selected Scriptures
November 18, 2018

Dr. Maya Angelou:
“If you don’t like something, then change it. If you can’t change it, then change your attitude. Just stop complaining.”

Complaining never attracts what you want; it only perpetuates what you don’t want. If you are not happy with what you have, then why would you want more? The first step toward prosperity it to be grateful for what you have. We cannot complain about what we have and be grateful at the same time.

James Allen:
“A man’s mind may be likened to a garden, which may be intelligently cultivated or allowed to run wild; but whether cultivated or neglected, it must, and will, bring forth. If no useful seeds are put into it, then an abundance of useless weed seeds will fall therein, and will continue to produce their kind.”

James Merritt:
“Some people are born again, and some people are born against.”

Will Bowen:
A Complaint Free Life
“Think of your mind as a manufacturer and your mouth as a customer. The manufacturer produces negative thoughts that are purchased by the customer when they are expressed as complaints. It goes like this: The manufacturer (your brain) produces a negative or unthankful thought, which the customer (your mouth) purchases by complaining or expressing ingratitude. If the customer will stop buying what the manufacturer produces, the manufacturer will have to retool. When you stop complaining about what you perceive to be wrong and begin to speak about what you are grateful for and what you desire, you force your manufacturer brain to develop a new product line.”

1 Corinthians 15:57 (NKJV) But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV) Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.

Three elements that are linked to every thankful Christian:

I. A Thankful Christian Connects Himself to a Spirit-Controlled Life

Ephesians 5:18-21 (NKJV) 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, 21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.”
You cannot be Spirit-filled and cry and complain at the same time.

II. A Thankful Christian Connects Himself to the Word of God

Colossians 3:16-17 (NKJV) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, in singing with grace 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.

If you spend time in the Word of God you’ll become a grateful person.

A Spirit-filled Christian is a scripture-filled Christian.

You will never be a serious disciple of Jesus Christ until you are committed to learning the Word and memorizing scripture.

Hudson Taylor:
“The surest sign that you are carrying a full bucket of water is that your feet get wet. Likewise, you cannot be full of the Spirit of God and not slosh out on somebody during the day.”

III. A Thankful Christian Connects Himself to the Joy of God

Habakkuk 3:17-18 (NKJV) Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the stalls. Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

Takeaway:
Never limit your praise to material things. Materialism has never been the basis of our relationship with God.

Thanksgiving, gratitude, and prayer all go together...

2 Timothy 3:1-3 (NKJV) But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,

David Jeremiah:
“A genuine Christian is a thankful Christian. A genuine Christian says thank you, instead of complaining. We learn how to count our blessings instead of our crosses. We learn how to count our gains instead of our losses.”

Thanksgiving is not situational nor is it circumstantial, nor is it relegated to just one day a year. No, thanksgiving is an attitude of a child of God who has never gotten over his or her salvation.