

Thanksgiving [21 Years Later]

Make it a priority to thank God.

Luke 17:12-19 As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance ¹³ and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”

¹⁴ When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

¹⁵ One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶ He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷ Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹ Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.” (NIV)

2 Timothy 3:1-5 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ² People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴ treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people. (NIV)

Take your eyes off yourself.

Colossians 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. (NIV)

Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. (NIV)

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (NIV)

Colossians 4:7 Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. (NIV)

Things you can be thankful for:

1. Oreo candy bars

Ephesians 5:19b-20 Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (NIV)

2. Life

Acts 17:25 And [God] is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. (NIV)

3. Creation

Genesis 2:9 The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. (NIV)

4. His provision

Deuteronomy 8:17-18a You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.”¹⁸ But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth. (NIV)

5. The Word

Romans 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. (NIV)

6. Friends

Romans 1:8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you... (NIV)

1 Corinthians 1:4 I always thank my God for you... (NIV)

Ephesians 1:16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you... (NIV)

Philippians 1:3 I thank my God every time I remember you. (NIV)

Colossians 1:3 We always thank God...when we pray for you, (NIV)

1 Thessalonians 1:2 We always thank God for all of you... (NIV)

2 Thessalonians 1:3 We ought always to thank God for you... (NIV)

2 Timothy 1:3 I thank God... as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. (NIV)

Philemon 4 I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers. (NIV)

7. I am rich

Matthew 13:44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. (NIV)

8. I have a clean slate with God.

Romans 4:7-8 “Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
⁸Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them.” (NIV)

9. I am a child of God.

John 1:12-13 Yet to all who did receive [Jesus], to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. (NIV)

1 John 3:1a See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! (NIV)

10. I am inheriting a fortune!

Hebrews 12:28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe. (NIV)

1 Peter 1:3-6 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,⁵ who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. (NIV)