

A Grateful Heart Gives Thanks

Phillipians 1:3-11

October 31, 2021

OUR LIVES GIVE _____.

Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. (Philippians 1:3 NLT)

--- I don't like this wording at all; that's why I'm on the teaching team.

WHEN TIMES ARE TOUGH, _____ AND _____.

Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. (Philippians 1:3 NLT)

WHEN WE _____, WE _____.

Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy ... (Philippians 1:4 NLT)

WHEN WE GIVE THANKS, WE _____.

...for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. (Philippians 1:5 NLT)

WHEN WE GIVE THANKS, WE _____.

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. (Philippians 1:6 NLT)

Give Thanks Grateful Hearts

Scripture Passage:

Philippians 1:3-11

Focus Statement:

Our gratitude & thanks & joy is an outpouring of God's Grace

Intro Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drkDAesuFTQ>

ME:

Thank you – so often we forget to say this. Yea, tomorrow marks Nov. and we all know that Thanksgiving is coming; then we remember. When times are good, so easy to fall asleep and forget. And when times are bad, what is there to say thank you for? This series DESC ... How do we live with grateful hearts each and every day? And what does that mean for our lives?

GOD:

Background to Philippians. See above...as we read through this very powerful letter, one called the Epistle of Joy, learn how to live with grateful hearts. Gratitude Jar Description ...

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. ... *Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God.* (1:2-3 NLT) These verses are inter-woven. We are only able to give thanks because God has given us a 'grace'. It is interesting to note that the Greek Words grace and thanks have similar roots. God gives us a 'grace' and we in turn are able to give 'thanks'. (see info on charis v. eucharisto) Our thanks is a natural outcropping of the salvation we have received from Jesus Christ.

It is easy to say 'give thanks,' especially in this time getting ready for our Thanksgiving Holiday. But we all know that when times are tough, it can be incredibly difficult to give thanks. Paul finds himself in a similar situation: he is writing this letter from prison in Rome. This cell will be his last residence and he will soon die in Rome. He writes to a people who are also suffering. (see above commentary.) And yet, Paul writes, ***Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God.*** (Philippians 1:3 NLT) Even from prison, even when we lose friends, even when the waves are crashing, we still have the possibility to give thanks. He writes, every time "I think of you" also translated 'remember'. There is power in our remembering. We are part of a huge Christian story. The Philippians did indeed give thanks and have a church that dates thousands of years. Paul gave thanks and planted so many multi-site churches and his words give us inspiration today. Sometimes at our darkest moments, we can find power in simply remembering when God has been with us.

In verses 4-6, then Paul gives us a way to tangibly live out our thanks. We have our gratitude jars AND it means life transformation each day. We can pray, tell others (share the joy) and live (knowing the eschaton.)

YOU:

You may be on top right now – that’s awesome. Live each day giving thanks. And you may find yourselves at the very bottom; getting ready for the holidays when they won’t be that jolly filled. You’ve gotten here and God is indeed with you. That is a miracle of thanks.

WE:

4 weeks until Thanksgiving and then the Christmas season starts. Can you imagine how our lives will be changed if we give thanks each day. (stats on physical giving thanks.) AND now imagine the power if each and every one of us prayed for someone else over the next few weeks to know the love and grace of Jesus Christ?
