

## **11-24-19 STRONG BONES PRAISE & WORSHIP GOD WITH THANKSGIVING FOR ALL HE HAS DONE (& IS STILL DOING)**

This is the season of THANKSGIVING!!!!

FOOTBALL! HUNTING! FOOD & FAMILY!!!

ONE OF MY "FAVORITE TIMES OF YEAR!"

**Today is the last in our 6-week series about ways that we BUILD & DEVELOP THE STRONG BONES OF FAITH & TRUST IN GOD. We must read & reflect upon God's written word as presented in the Bible to help build & develop STRONG BONES OF FAITH & TRUST IN JESUS.**

Some of the most important things to do involve developing DAILY habits and practices.

1. Read and think about God's Word – The BIBLE ---
2. Pray and share with God, including a time to listen to God
3. Spiritual Breathing – breathing out or confessing those things that have strained or broken relationships with God, ourselves and others AND then breath in and welcome the Holy Spirit's presence for another day.
4. Practice and do "hesed" one to the other and to the world within our sphere of influence ---Developing an inner nature characterized by the Fruit of the Holy Spirit -- love, joy, peace, patience, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
5. **And TODAY: Praise & Revere God with THANKSGIVING**

TODAY we LEARN that **GIVING THANKS** becomes a natural outpouring of **AN ENCOUNTER WITH & EMBRACE OF THE LIVING GOD of the BIBLE!!!**

### **1<sup>st</sup> WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THANKSGIVING?**

**THANKSGIVING is COMMANDED throughout the BIBLE!**

- + In the Books of History & Law --- as offerings and worship and 'thanks' Including: Leviticus 7:12-15; 2 Chronicles 29:31; Psalms 107:22
- + In the Books of Revival --- Ne: 12:1
- + In the Psalms --- 75:1; 107:1; 118:1; 136:1-3
- + In the Prophets --- Isaiah 12:4; Jeremiah 33:11
- + In the New Testament – Eph. 5:20; Col. 3:15-17; Phil. 4:6 & 1 Th. 5:18

### **BIBLICAL REASONS FOR THANKSGIVING:**

1. God's **GOODNESS & LOVE**  
+ 1 Ch. 16:34; 2 Ch. 20:21; Ps. 118:29
2. God's **WONDERFUL DEEDS**  
+ Ps. 75:1; 107:8,15,21,31
3. God's **PROTECTION**  
+ Ps. 56:12-13
4. **Gods SALVATION FROM DEATH**  
+ 1 Ch 16:35; Ps 118:21; Rom. 7:24-25
5. For **DAILY PROTECTION**  
+ Matt. 14:19; 2 Cor. 9:12; 1 Ti. 4:3-5
6. For **FAITH, HOPE & LOVE**  
+ Rom. 1:8; Col. 1:3-5; 1 Th 1:2-4; 2 Th 1:3-4
7. **God's GRACE**  
+ 1 Cor. 1:4
8. **God's HEALING**  
+ Luke 17:16
9. **JESUS' VICTORY OVER SIN & DEATH**  
+ 1 Ti. 2:1
10. For **ALL PEOPLE & ALL THINGS**  
+ 1 Ti. 2:1; Eph. 5:20; 1 Th 5:18

### **WAYS TO THANK GOD:**

**SINGING** -- PS 28:7; Ne 12: 27,31,40; Col 3:16-17

**MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS** --- 1 CH 25:1

**PRAYING** --- Rom 1:8-10; 1 Cor. 1:4-9

**GIVING OFFERINGS** --- Lev. 7:12-15; Ps 56:12

**WORSHIPPING, PRAISING (THANKING) GOD** Ps 100:2-4;  
Heb. 12:28

**SPEAKING ABOUT JESUS & HIS WORK IN YOUR LIFE** Luke 2:38

**LIVING HOLY LIVES** Rom. 12:1; 1 Cor. 6:20

**SO THEN ....**

**THANKSGIVING IS A WAY TO EXPRESS OUR  
GRATITUDE TO GOD AND LIVING IN A WAY THAT EMULATES  
GOD'S GENEROSITY & BLESSING IS ONE OF THE  
BEST WAYS TO THANK GOD FOR HIS GOODNESS TO US.**

NOW --- as we have done before --- let's think about a Bible character who demonstrates for us an attitude & expression of THANKSGIVING - -- even GRATITUDE --- BOTH STEMMING FROM A DEEP, INNER JOY!

Let's consider MARY and the moments after her angelic encounter when she learned that she would deliver the Baby Jesus --- the Messiah for all the world ... imagine a young women, generally poor.... engaged to Joseph ... IMAGINE all of the emotions ... IMAGINE the anticipation of social judgments ... IMAGINE how she may anticipate Joseph's response ... and IMAGINE a change in the dreams that she and Joseph shared.

The angel declared that Mary was 'highly favored' ... have you considered what it means to be 'highly favored' by God?

Would it be an easy life?

A normal life?

Imagine all that we know happened to Jesus --- and Mary was there for all of it --- the good times and the bad times ... WOW!

THE LEAD-IN STORY --- THE ANGELIC ANNUNCIATION TO MARY is found in LUKE 1:26-45 ....

AND NOW --- LET's see how MARY RESPONDS:

Luke 1:45-55: And Mary said: "*My soul glorifies the Lord* and *my spirit rejoices* in God my Savior, or he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on, all generations will call me blessed, **for the Mighty One has done great things FOR ME**—holy is his name.

His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

1. He has performed **mighty deeds** with his arm;  
he has **scattered those who are proud** in their inmost thoughts.
2. He has **brought down rulers** from their thrones but has **lifted up the humble**.
3. He has **filled the hungry** with good things but has **sent the rich away** empty.
4. He has **helped his servant** Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, **just as he promised our ancestors**.

#### QUESTIONS & REFLECTIONS:

1. Would you be thankful? How would you 'naturally' respond?
2. IS being "highly favored" A 'GOOD THING'?
3. Mary was not DOUBTING or RESISTANT but CURIOUS ☺

As I reflect upon the value and significance of GENUINE GRATITUDE & THANKSGIVING demonstrated through the JOYFUL & GRATEFUL RESPONSE OF YOUNG MARY ---- there are a few thoughts...

#### GENUINE GRATITUDE & THANKSGIVING GIVES US:

1. GENUINE GRATITUDE & THANKSGIVING TO GOD OPENS THE DOOR FOR "NEW & IMPROVED" RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOD
2. GENUINE GRATITUDE & THANKSGIVING OPENS THE DOOR FOR DEVELOPING A NEW REGARD FOR OTHERS
3. GENUINE GRATITUDE & THANKSGIVING OPENS THE DOOR FOR A NEW REASON FOR LIVING

#### CONCLUSION:

IF GRATITUDE & THANKSGIVING ARE THE CELEBRATION OF GOD's BLESSING & GOD's GENEROSITY --- and ....

IF THE BEST WAY TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO GOD IS TO IMITATE AND MODEL HIS GENEROSITY IN OUR DAILY LIVING ...

THEN WE WILL TAKE ON GOD's SPIRIT OF GRACIOUSNESS ... KINDNESS ... GENEROSITY ... etc. as OUR WAY OF LIVING ....

SO --- ARE WE GOD-like in our living?

AND --- IF MARY COULD "SING FOR JOY" IN HER POVERTY & CIRCUMSTANCE --- WHY CAN'T WE IN OURS?

GOD SENDS US FORTH WITH HIS BLESSING ...  
PLEASE STAND AS WE SING

"SENT FORTH BY GOD'S BLESSING" ☺