

"The Road to Thankfulness"

God is committed to making us a thankful people.

I. Thankfulness is learned through instruction and example.

A. We are instructed to show thankfulness to God.

Psalm 92:1–2 — *"¹ It is good to give thanks to the Lord And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; ² To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning And Your faithfulness by night,"*

1. The opposite is a truth – It is not good to grumble to the Lord.

B. This instruction is given to Christians in the N.T.:

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 — *"¹⁶ Rejoice always; ¹⁷ pray without ceasing; ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

C. Worship is the highest form of thankfulness.

Psalm 147:1 — *"¹ Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; For it is pleasant and praise is becoming."*

1. **Question:** Do you have thankfulness in your worship?

II. Thankfulness is often born out of great personal need.

A. God often allows needs to come into our life.

1. The Pilgrims found themselves in great need when they came to the new world in 1620 –

B. Needs are not just to increase our faith but to produce thankfulness. - Matthew 6:31–33

Matthew 6:31–33 — *"³¹ 'Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' ... ³³ 'But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.'"*

1. **Question:** What needs do you currently have that you could seek the Lord about? (Salvation of my soul?)

III. Thankfulness first begins when we believe God's promise to us.

Psalm 23:1 — *"The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want."*

Philippians 4:19 — *"And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."*

Matthew 7:11 — *"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!"*

A. The Bible is like a tree with its branches loaded with peaches.

B. The Bible is loaded with the promises of His provision to those who take. --Psalm 119:103

C. We take of these promises by giving God thanks before we receive... that's called faith.

Philippians 4:6–7 — *"⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

IV. Thankfulness is meant to be shared. (What do you mean)

A. We have the ability to make others thankful to God.

2 Corinthians 9:8 *"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;"*

B. Thankfulness is multiplied when we share our blessings.

2 Corinthians 9:12–15 *"For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God. ... 14 while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you. 15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"*

1. Two things happen when we share our blessing:

- (a) Thankful worship rises up to God's throne because of us.
- (b) Prayer for us rises up to God so that He might bless us.

THINK, PRAY and OBEY: Are you on the road to thankfulness?

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