

Ephesians 5:4 – God’s Command

Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

Philippians 4:4-7 – Prayer Guidelines

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;

⁶ do not be anxious about anything, 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 understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 4:2

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

1 Timothy 2:1-4

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,

² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior,

⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 4:4-5

⁴ For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving,

⁵ for it is made holy by the Word of God and prayer.

Revelation 7:11-12 – Heaven

¹¹ And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

¹² saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

Happy Thanksgiving!

[New York, 3 October 1789]

By the President of the United States of America – a Proclamation.

Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor—and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me “to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.”

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be—That we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks—for His kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation—for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of His Providence which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war—for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed—for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted—for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which He hath been pleased to confer upon us, and also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions—to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually—to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed—to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shewn kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord—To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us—and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand at the City of New-York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789.

THANKSGIVING

Giving thanks to the Lord is to be our lifestyle as well as God's command. What does Scripture teach about giving thanks?

Leviticus 22:29 – all sacrifices were to include Thanksgiving.

And when you sacrifice a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Lord, you shall sacrifice it so that you may be accepted.

2 Chronicles 5:13-14 – Dedication of the Temple

¹³ and it was the duty of the trumpeters and singers to make themselves heard in unison in praise and thanksgiving to the Lord), and when the song was raised, with trumpets and cymbals and other musical instruments, in praise to the Lord, "For He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever," the house, the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud,

¹⁴ so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.

2 Chronicles 33:16 – King Manasseh's repentance included Thanksgiving.

He also restored the altar of the Lord and offered on it sacrifices of peace offerings and of thanksgiving, and he commanded Judah to serve the Lord, the God of Israel.

Nehemiah 12:27 – Nehemiah's Dedication of the Wall

And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, with thanksgivings and with singing, with cymbals, harps, and lyres.

Psalms 26 – David's Experience

¹ Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.

² Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and my mind.

³ For Your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in Your faithfulness.

⁴ I do not sit with men of falsehood, nor do I consort with hypocrites.

⁵ I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked.

⁶ I wash my hands in innocence and go around Your altar, O Lord,

⁷ proclaiming thanksgiving aloud, and telling all your wondrous deeds.

⁸ O Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

⁹ Do not sweep my soul away with sinners, nor my life with bloodthirsty men,

¹⁰ in whose hands are evil devices, and whose right hands are full of bribes.

¹¹ But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me.

¹² My foot stands on level ground; in the great assembly I will bless the Lord.

Psalms 50:14-15, 23 – Glorifies God

¹⁴ Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High,

¹⁵ and call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.

Psalms 100:4 – Command

Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His Name!

Psalms 116:17

I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the Name of the Lord.

Jonah 2:9 – Rejoice in Repentance

But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to You; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the Lord!

2 Corinthians 4:13-15 – Results

¹³ Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak,

¹⁴ knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence.

¹⁵ For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.