

What does the Bible say about thankfulness / gratitude?

Answer: Thankfulness is a prominent Bible theme. First Thessalonians 5:16-18 says, "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Did you catch that? Give thanks in all circumstances. Thankfulness should be a way of life for us, naturally flowing from our hearts and mouths.

Digging into the Scriptures a little more deeply, we understand why we should be thankful and also how to have gratitude in different circumstances.

Psalm 136:1 says, "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever." Here we have two reasons to be thankful: God's constant goodness and His steadfast love. When we recognize the nature of our depravity and understand that, apart from God, there is only death (John 10:10; Romans 7:5), our natural response is to be grateful for the life He gives.

Psalm 30 gives praise to God for His deliverance. David writes, "I will exalt you, O Lord, for you lifted me out of the depths and did not let my enemies gloat over me. O Lord my God, I called to you for help and you healed me. O Lord, you brought me up from the grave; you spared me from going down into the pit. . . . You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing to you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever" (Psalm 30:1-12). Here David gives thanks to God following an obviously difficult circumstance. This psalm of thanksgiving not only praises God in the moment but remembers God's past faithfulness. It is a statement of God's character, which is so wonderful that praise is the only appropriate response.

We also have examples of being thankful in the midst of hard circumstances. Psalm 28, for example, depicts David's distress. It is a cry to God for mercy, protection, and justice. After David cries out to God, he writes, "Praise be to the Lord, for he has heard my cry for mercy. The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song" (Psalm 28:6-7). In the midst of hardship, David remembers who God is and, as a result of knowing and trusting God, gives thanks. Job had a similar attitude of praise, even in the face of death: "The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised" (Job 1:21).

There are examples of believers' thankfulness in the New Testament as well. Paul was heavily persecuted, yet he wrote, "Thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him" (2 Corinthians 2:14). The writer of Hebrews says, "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe" (Hebrews 12:28). Peter gives a reason to be thankful for "grief and all kinds of trials," saying that, through the hardships, our faith "may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed" (1 Peter 1:6-7).

The people of God are thankful people, for they realize how much they have been given. One of the characteristics of the last days is a lack of thanksgiving, according to 2 Timothy 3:2. Wicked people will be "ungrateful."

We should be thankful because God is worthy of our thanksgiving. It is only right to credit Him for "every good and perfect gift" He gives (James 1:17). When we are thankful, our focus moves off selfish desires and off the pain of current circumstances. Expressing thankfulness helps us remember that God is in control. Thankfulness, then, is not only appropriate; it is actually healthy and beneficial to us. It reminds us of the bigger picture, that we belong to God, and that we have been blessed with every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3). Truly, we have an abundant life (John 10:10), and gratefulness is fitting.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-thankfulness-gratitude.html>

PRAYER LIST

- **Pauline Alvarez**
- **Lauren Babb** (health)
- **John Beiler** (health)
- **Jim Carpenter** (Cody Chrismon's great uncle—health)
- **Cinco Ranch Church of Christ**
- **Betty Cox** (Brent Barnick's sister—homebound)
- **Jake Faires** (Air Force, deployed to Jordan)
- **Steven Faires, and Lexi**
- **Nelle Hahn** (health)
- **Molly Lind** (Linds' daughter-in-law)
- **Clay Mason** (health)
- **Norman Pennock** (Debbie Fougerat's step-father, health)
- **Ada Powell** (Sharron Mason's sister—health)
- **T.J. Reid** (Nelle Hahn's brother—health)
- **Julie Rodriguez** (Babbs' friend—health)
- **Kathy Schumacher** (Cody Chrismon's mother—recovering from surgery)
- **Nancy Tuttle** (Peggy Walls's sister—health)
- **Edwin Weaver** (broken leg)
- **Catherine Winegeart** (Perry's mother—health)

If you have any announcements or prayer requests you wish to have included in the bulletin or to sign up for weekly e-mail updates, please contact Victoria Johnson: 325-518-9205, victoria@gonzaleschurchofchrist.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Men's Meeting

The men will have their monthly meeting **next Sunday, Nov. 12, at 8 a.m.** at the building.

Youth Sunday: Rocky Creek Maze

Please join us **next Sunday, Nov. 12, at 2 p.m.** for youth Sunday at the Rocky Creek Maze in Moulton. After our time at Rocky Creek, we will go to dinner at La Terraza De Jalisco in Shiner (203 S Ave. E) for dinner. Our activities should conclude by 7 p.m. **If you plan to attend, please sign up in the foyer by this Wednesday, Nov. 8, so we can get make reservations for the group rate for admission if enough people are attending.** Group admission is \$13 per person. (Standard rate is \$15.) Please note the admission rate now includes the corn cannon and frog hopper, which used to be separate charges. You may pick up a flyer in the foyer for more information.

ISF Thanksgiving Meal

Our dinner with ISF (Intermediate Sanction Facility) residents and staff is less than two weeks away. This year's ISF Thanksgiving Dinner is on **Friday, November 17. Please plan to arrive at the facility between 4:15 and 4:30 p.m.** We plan to eat around 4:45 p.m. **The food will be prepared next Wednesday, November 15, in the annex.** Please bring desserts to the annex by the 15th as the food will be picked up on Thursday morning. The sign-up sheet to provide desserts and to attend the meal is available on the table in the foyer. Please keep in mind, no children under 16 are allowed at the ISF facility.

Ladies Christmas Party Host Needed

It is time to start planning our annual Ladies Christmas Party. Please contact Victoria Johnson if you are interested in hosting this year's party.

Wednesday Evening Meal & Bible Study

Please join us **at 5:15 p.m. this Wednesday** for dinner in the annex. **This week's entrée is chili dogs.** Classes for all ages follow at 6 p.m.

Volunteers Needed: Wednesday Night Meals

Volunteers are needed to prepare the entrée for meals on Wednesday evenings. To help, please sign up in the foyer. **If you signed up to prepare a meal, please send Victoria your menu by Wednesday the week before.**

Volunteers Needed: Communion Prep

Volunteers are needed to prepare communion in the coming months. This task takes very little time and is a great service to the congregation. Please sign up on the large bulletin board in the foyer.

Sunday Night Small Group

There is a small group that meets in the annex each Sunday evening from **6-7 p.m.** The Lord's Supper is available.

Tuesday Morning Men's Prayer Breakfast

All men are invited to the annex each Tuesday morning at **6:20 a.m.** for a time of breakfast, prayer and fellowship.

YOUTH ZONE

CONGRATULATIONS TO JACY CHRISMON AND MEGAN EPLEY, AND THE SHINER HS MARCHING BAND!
THEY QUALIFIED FOR THE STATE MARCHING CONTEST, WHICH IS TOMORROW IN SAN ANTONIO.



THURSDAY, NOV. 9
JUNIOR HIGH FOOTBALL
SHINER @ REFUGIO, 6:30 P.M.

Caden Chrismon—Shiner Jr High Football