

Give Thanks to the Lord (Psalms 136:1-2)

Reasons for thanks to God although in trouble and difficulty? God made us - exist. We should give thank to God because he made us; gave life. He leads and guides us to live. We could not exist without God who also prepared all conditions to live(Earth,sky,day and night, food) Because of all things, we should give thanks to God.“**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.His love endures forever. Give thanks to the God of gods.His love endures forever(Psalms 136:1-2)**However, there is one thing which makes us unhappy: Sin. All fundamental cause of tragedy result from sin. However, God sent his son, Jesus Christ to redeem our sins on the cross. Forgiveness of sins will be the most thanks and blessing in our life because we will not worry or wonder because of sin. The most thing we should thank is grace of salvation by Jesus. “**Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment(Heb 9:27) “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins(Ephe 2:1) What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?(Matt 16:26)**

We should thank

Grace of Salvation (God’s Absolute Choice) It is grace that God chose us among all people and gave us chance to hear the Gospel.“**He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.Through him you believe in God,who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God(1 Peter 1:20 -21)** We could never express thanks enough - even with thousand tongues - for being chosen the children of God.

Freedom of Faith.“**Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance.(Psalms 33:12)** We are so blessed to worship freely. Many people who are persecuted and died who believe in Jesus because of no freedom in religion.

Church to worship. “ **Church is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way (Ephe 1:23)** We could eat spiritual food at church because it is spiritual house, body of Jesus. It is blessing to eat spiritual food.

Faith.We could be strong and bold when we know God - our perspective will change. The secret that a lowly man becomes a man of strength is faith. Their way to live is not same as worldly people.We have strong trust that God always prepares good things for us in all situation. No worries in God.

Giving thanks - Habit. We should believe God’s good will in all circumstances because we depend upon him. Give thanks in all circumstances “**And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose(Romans 8:28)**We will face several difficulties or sufferings but we could endure when we believe in Jesus with prayer. Three life commandments from Apostle Paul “ **Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances : this is God’s will for you in Jesus Christ(1Thess 5:16-18)** It is the secret words from God to live successful, happy life. We would be happy when we live by God’s word.“**For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword,it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.(Hebrews 4:12)** We should not respond to environment but listen and obey words of God because It is the secret words from God to live successful, happy life.

How to make thanks a habit? We could give thanks when we search(find) it. “**Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.(Colossians 3:15)** It means we should thank not only when there is something to thank but also when we do not see it, we have to find it. In today’s verse Psalms 136 shows that give thanks to the Lord is a commandment. Give thanks to God who created all universe, who saved us from Egypt,from Red Sea, from wilderness,from all war,sufferings, who gave this land as an inheritance gives food to every creature. Give thanks to the God of heaven and it is commandment.We could give thanks even in worst time(case) and it is our grace and privilege.

Express Thanks(appreciation) “**Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts(Colos 3:16)**God is pleased when we express thanks. How to express appreciation? Appear ourselves in front of God. Three times a year you are to celebrate a festival to me....**Celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread, Harvest with the firstfruits of the crops you sow in your field, Ingathering at the end of the year ... Three times a year all the men are to appear before the Sovereign Lord(Exodus 23:14-17)**Thanksgiving is one of expression. It means that we bring our valuable thing to God because it is one of most important in this world. Offering is also one of training.

Practical Commitment(service) We should serve with using all opportunities as much as we can. Apostle Paul said “**Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.(Romans 12:1)** As saved one, our life will be offering to God and it is true worship.

Count what we have. Satan always tempt to us complain or grumble that lead us be disbelief or rebel against God.“**Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them(Matthew 13:12)**We should count own blessings and remember how we received grace of God. “**Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ(Ephesians 1:3)** We should rather count blessings what we have which came from heavenly realms; not complain what we do not have.