

## AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

### Thanksgiving Faith

**FOUNDATION STATEMENT:** Many believers have learned to thank God after the victory, but thanksgiving faith will thank God before the victory & because of it walk in consistent victory

#### I. Why you need to develop in thanksgiving (1 Corinthians 10:5-11)

##### A. The company murmuring keeps

1. 5-Them being overthrown did not please God-He's not pleased w/ defeat
2. 5-11-God is not pleased; Idolatry, fornication, they tempted God & murmured
  - a. In our minds murmuring hasn't been as ugly as these other things and that's why we've yielded to it the way we have
  - b. We got to change our perception of being unthankful; it's as ugly as it gets

##### B. Don't murmur-(Colossians 3:15-Thankful-Grateful, acting well, mindful of favors)

1. There's no place between being thankful and being unthankful
  - a. There's no place between love and hate, faith and unbelief
  - b. If you're not being thankful, you're being unthankful
2. You can't be yielding to this in the small things, that's how it develops
3. The one sure way to make sure you're not complaining is to have thanksgiving on your mouth all the time; u can't be thanking God & be unthankful at the same time
  - a. Galatians 5:16-The way to stop being unthankful is to start being thankful

##### C. Complaining is connected to defeat – Thanksgiving is connected to victory

1. AND-Their destruction was connected to their murmuring
2. Unthankfulness will open the door 2 the destroyer in your life; thankfulness will close it
3. Genesis 3-Adam and Eve were unthankful and destruction came

#### II. Thanksgiving is something we're supposed to have on our lips all the time-Heb 13:15-16

##### A. We are to thank God continually, in everything, but not b/c God's ego needs stroked

1. Hebrews 13:5-All the time insinuates before the victory
2. 1 Thessalonians 5:18-In everything give thanks insinuates before the victory
3. Ephesians 5:20-You can't thank God for things He didn't do
4. Colossians 3:17-Everything you do, do giving thanks to God

##### B. Sacrifice of praise-If you're supposed to thank God all the time & in everything we can only assume that there's going to be a time when you don't feel like doing it

1. Sacrifice-Suffer something for the sake of obtaining something
  - a. You're giving something up in order to obtain something more valuable to

- b. B/C God calls it a sacrifice of praise I know it's going to cost me something and I'm not going to feel like doing all the time & it's not going to be easy all the time
- 2. Thanksgiving has nothing to do with feeling thankful; you act on this verse by faith
- 3. Our sacrifice of praise when our mouth starts thanking Him not when music starts
- C. This sacrifice pleases God; Ur going 2 thank God all the time-He's going 2 be pleased
  - 1. God is pleased with your sacrifice of thanksgiving (Psalm 69:30-31)
  - 2. I'm going to sacrifice my feelings for the sake of pleasing God & victory
  - 3. God takes pleasure in my prosperity and victory-Psalm 35:27, 1 Corinthians 10:5

### III. There's a connection between thanksgiving and faith

- A. You can't please God without faith-Hebrews 11:6
  - 1. If thanksgiving were without faith it wouldn't please God
- B. Real faith has thanksgiving with it
  - 1. Col 2:7-If you're in faith you're also going to be overflowing with thanksgiving
  - 2. If faith that doesn't have thanksgiving with it, it's not really faith
- C. Hebrews 11:1-Faith is seeing something as real fact that's not revealed to the senses
  - 1. Faith thanks God because it believes it has the victory, when it doesn't see it
  - 2. One of the highest levels of faith and thanksgiving is not thanking God for what has happened, but thanking God for the victory that hasn't manifested yet
  - 3. It takes little to no faith to thank God for the victory that just showed up-that's no sacrifice of thanksgiving
    - a. It takes faith 2 thank God for the victory that looks like it's never going to show up; that's a sacrifice of thanks that pleases God b/c there's faith in that
- D. Thanksgiving is the voice of faith-Mark 11:24
  - 1. If you believe you have it as your present possession then there's no need ask anymore; the only thing left to do is say thank you Lord
    - a. The voice of faith isn't a crying begging voice, but it's one that says thank you Lord because it believes it has received
  - 2. Philippians 4:6-7
    - a. You make your requests known to God in every thing by 1) Prayer-Believing you received 2) Supplication-Passionate 3) Thanksgiving-Thank you I have it
    - b. Thanksgiving is the activator of peace that passes understanding
      - 1) You can't thank God for your victory and worry that's not going to show up at the same time; you can't thank God for your victory and be afraid you won't be victorious at the same
    - c. Peace will be on guard as long as thanksgiving is coming out of your mouth
      - 1) Keep-to guard, protect by a military guard, either to prevent hostile invasion

- E. Thanksgiving will effect your attitude (2 Corinthians 2:14)
  - 1. Thanking God & walking in victory makes known a sweet smell that is pleasing 2 God
  - 2. A thankful attitude smells good to God; an unthankful attitude stinks
  - 3. Their offering smelt good to God; thanksgiving is sacrifice that smells good (Ph 4:18)
- F. If faith & thanksgiving are connected then unbelief & being unthankful are connected
  - 1. If you are unthankful, complaining, or feeling sorry for yourself, you are not in faith
  - 2. One of the main ways the enemy gets you in unbelief is by getting you to operate in unthankfulness; and he does that by getting you to think about and focus on what you are not, what you don't have and what you can't do
    - a. When you're look at seen things that you aren't or don't have it'll lead you into being unthankful, you'll be in unbelief, and destruction will manifest
  - 3. 2 Corinthians 4:18-Don't look at what you can see, look at what you can't see and that will help to stay in faith and thanksgiving
    - a. Only allow yourself to think about and talk about who you are in him, what you have in him & what you can do in him this will keep you in faith and thanksgiving & connect you to victory
- G. Romans 4:16-21
  - 1. 16-Inheriting the promise is through faith-Faith has thanksgiving with it
    - a. If ur going 2 receive the promise you're going 2 have 2 say thank u beforehand
    - b. The end of the promise comes proceeds your faith; faith precedes manifestation and therefore so to does thanksgiving
    - c. Thanksgiving should not only proceed your victory, it should precede it
  - 2. 16-Inheriting the promise is by grace
    - a. You didn't earn it and you don't deserve and God doesn't owe it to you
    - b. Romans 4:4-If you worked for it, then it's not grace, but it's owed to you
      - 1) If it's owed to you there's no need for thanksgiving b/c you earned/deserve it
      - 2) Get out of this mentality that I did what the Word said b/c I did you owe me
  - 3. All things that pertain 2 life and godliness are being offered 2 us by grace and me must receive/take them by faith (2 Pet 1:4)
    - a. 17-Abraham took the promise by faith by calling things that be not
  - 4. 18-19-His eyes were fixed on what he was and had in God; he didn't think about what he wasn't, what he didn't have, what he couldn't do
  - 5. 20-He's not staggering through unbelief, but his faith had thanksgiving with it
    - a. He's thanking God 23 years in 4 a victory that looks like it's never going to happen
    - b. He had thanksgiving w/ is faith b/c he believes he's the Father of many nations
  - 6. 20-The more He thanked God the stronger his faith got-this makes your faith stronger

- a. Faith w/o thanksgiving is weak faith that will produce weak results
- b. When u than God 4 the victory before the victory that's evidence ur faith is strong

#### IV. Faith thanks God for the victory before the victory

- A. 1 Cor 15:57, 2 Cor 2:14-We don't just thank God for victories that have happened when thank God for things that haven't come to pass yet like they've come to pass
  - a. Which gives us-He has given, He gives now, and He will give in the future
  - b. Always causes us to triumph-Always means yesterday, today, and forever
- 2. EX: If you tell me that you're going to take me out and buy me a new suit after church I'm going to say thank you; Not I'm going to reserve my thanks until I see it happen (if that was my attitude I'd lose that suit)
  - a. People are reserving their thanks until the victory shows up and that's keeping the victory from showing up because that's not faith
- 3. Joshua 6:16-They thanked God before their victory f
- 4. 1 Jn 5:4-Faith is the victory that overcomes the world & thanksgiving is voice of faith
- B. Follow the example of the Master
  - 1. John 11:1-4, 41-44
    - a. 4-Jesus believes & speaks & it's supposed to come to pass
    - b. 41-He lifted his eyes to Heaven
      - 1) If you're going to operate in faith and in thanksgiving you can't allow yourself to think about what you are not, what you don't have, or what you can't do. Only think about, talk about, and thank God for who you are in him, what you have in him, and what you can do in him
        - a) People become ungrateful when they start looking at what they aren't, what they don't have, and what they can't do
      - 2) He looked at what He couldn't see not what he could see (2 Corinthians 4:18)
        - a) If he would have looked at that tomb and got his eyes on that he could've gotten to the place where he was feeling sorry for himself, saying this doesn't work, why didn't God do it
    - c. 41-This is the voice of faith because it doesn't look like God heard him in verse 4
      - 1) He's thanking him for the victory that he, can't see & isn't manifested yet
      - 2) He's not complaining about what hasn't changed, what hasn't manifested,
      - 3) He speaks to a man who is dead like he's a live b/c that's what he believes
    - d. His thanksgiving connected him to his victory
  - 2. Matthew 14:14-21, John 6

- a. John the Baptist and just been beheaded and Jesus went to be alone and the people followed him. He was moved with compassion and healed their sick-He's not grumbling because he lived a lifestyle of thanksgiving
- b. He had two pieces of fish and five loaves of bread, but he didn't allow himself to think about what he didn't have, what he couldn't do, or what he wasn't-He lifted his eyes to Heaven
  - 1) When he got his eyes off of what he didn't have it activated thanksgiving and his thanksgiving connected him to victory
- c. He's not just thanking God for what he had, he's thanking God for what he didn't have