

## THE ROOT OF CHARACTER: THE FEAR OF THE LORD

### *The Irreverence of The Unthankful*

**Foundation Statement:** It's irreverent to be unthankful – Psalm 140:13, 2Timothy 3:1-2

#### **I. Thanksgiving manifests when you value what's been given to you**

- A. Thanksgiving manifests when you appreciate what's been done for you
  - 1. To appreciate what's been done for you means that it's valuable to you
    - a. You don't appreciate things that aren't valuable to you
  - 2. You're thankful and appreciative for things that you value
- B. When you're not thankful for what has been given to you, that reveals to us that you don't appreciate or value it very much
  - 1. It's irreverent to be unthankful to God because through thankfulness you're saying that you don't value what He's done
    - a. You don't appreciate it, value it, it and it's not that important to you
      - 1) If you did value it and appreciate it we'd know because of your thanksgiving
    - b. Through unthankfulness you are devaluing what God has done and in doing so you're dishonoring him
  - 2. Where there's unthankfulness there's a lack of value for what's been given or done
    - a. EX: People aren't thankful for the word because they don't value it
- C. Through thanksgiving we express how precious or valuable something is to us
  - 1. When you're not thankful for something you're saying it doesn't mean much to you
  - 2. You're devaluing that thing and in doing so dishonoring it
  - 3. EX: Imagine your spouse taking the time to do something very special for you and your respond to them in a very unthankful manner. It's irreverent and disrespectful because you're devaluing all the time, energy, and effort that they put into that thing and in doing so you're dishonoring them.
- D. Thanksgiving will manifest more when you see the true value of God, His things, and what he's done in your life
  - 1. When you value what God has done thanksgiving will follow & honor will manifest
  - 2. When you value what's been given to you, you'll be thankful, and then treat that thing differently by investing it (Honor) (Appreciation > Thanksgiving > Honor)
- E. Unthankful and Dishonor go together (Revelation 7:12)
  - 1. When you're unthankful it shows your lack of appreciation or value for what was done. And because you don't value or appreciate as precious you won't honor it by investing into it.

2. Honor can't manifest without thanksgiving being present

## II. Thanksgiving is not a feeling, but it is an act of your will that you release by faith

- A. Just b/c u don't feel thankful or appreciative doesn't mean you aren't and can't be
  1. Thanksgiving-To throw, shoot, cast, to shoot (arrows), to give thanks, praise, to confess, thank-offering,
    - a. Throwing, shooting, casting, praising, & giving are all acts of your will not feelings
  2. As an act of my will, out of my reverence and respect for My Father and what He's done, I am thankful
    - a. Thanksgiving is no more a feeling than love is a feeling
    - b. Lord I thank you for opening up my eyes to see the true value of things
- B. Hebrews 13:15 – A sacrifice of praise
  1. It's a sacrifice when you don't feel thankful, when you don't want to be thankful, but you do it as an act of your will
  2. Continually with your lips give thanks to Him
    - a. We cultivate this lifestyle of thanksgiving out of reverence and respect
  3. Continual thanksgiving shows God that u value & appreciate what he's doing in your life
    - a. Don't make light of what God has done; it's irreverent

## III. The irreverence of the unthankful

- A. Complaining people keeps company bad company (1 Cor 10:6-13)
  1. As irreverent as lust, idolatry, fornication, & tempting God are, so is being ungrateful
  2. Pay attention and make sure you're being thankful and not murmuring
- B. Unthankfulness and Unbelief
  1. Let your request be made known with thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6)
    - a. Your thankful b/c in your minds eye you've believed you have received & it's done (Mark 11:24)  
(I'll believe you and give you thanks when I see it = Irreverent)
    - b. You value it & appreciate it like it's already done when you can't see it or feel it
      - 1) If you believed God you wouldn't be complaining about the lack, you'd be thanking him for your met needs
  2. Thankful people are faith people (Deuteronomy 1:27-32)
    - a. They didn't believe God was with them, for them, and on their side and that's why they complained
- C. Unthankfulness forgets what God has done & in doing so devalues what he's done (Psalm 106:7-48)
  1. Focusing on what hasn't manifested leads ungratefulness

- a. Do you spend more time appreciating God than you do complaining about what you don't have manifested?
  - b. You ungrateful thing sitting there focusing on what hasn't manifested. Why don't you focus on where God has brought you from and all the great things he's done in your life and be thankful for that?
  - c. Be thankful for what you have rather than thinking about what hasn't manifested
  - d. Ungratefulness leads to rebellion---Forget > Unthankful > Rebellion
2. Look at, consider, and give your attention to all the good things that God has done for you, it leads to you being thankful & in turn reverent towards God (1 Sam 12:24)
  3. Many times ungratefulness manifests because of covetousness (Heb 13:5)
    - a. Grateful does not mean stagnate
      - 1) You can be thankful for what you have and desire more
    - b. Covetousness-You believe you can't live without this thing (Lk 12:15)
      - 1) Be thankful for what u got & know that the only thing you can't live w/o is Jesus
- D. Unthankfulness manifests when you begin to compare yourself with somebody else, in doing so you devalue what God's done in your life (2 Cor 10:12 AMP)
1. Often people are ungrateful because of the size of what they've been given
    - a. They weren't thankful in with what they Lord had given them because in their eyes it wasn't big enough (Numbers 16)
  2. If you're not faithful in the least you won't be faithful in much (Lk 16:10)
    - a. Part of being faithful in the least is being thankful for the least
      - 1) If you're not thankful for what you have right now God could multiply what you have 100X and you wouldn't be thankful then
    - b. When you're not thankful/appreciative for the "least" that you have you aren't valuing it and in turn you won't honor it and qualify for more

#### **IV. A lifestyle of thanksgiving**

- A. It's God's will that we live a reverent and thankful life
  1. Psalm 140:13 – Righteous people of character give thanks to the Lord
  2. Colossians 2:7 – Abounding in thanksgiving
  3. Colossians 3:15,17 – Giving thanks in all that you do
  4. Ephesians 5:20 – Giving thanks for all things unto God
  5. 1 Thess 5:16-In everything you give thanks for it's the will of God that you give thanks
  6. Ephesians 5:4 – Be known for your giving of thanks to God
  7. Philippians 2:14 – Do all things without murmuring

B. Results of thanksgiving

1. Thanksgiving pleases God more than any other sacrifice (Psalm 69:30-31)
2. Being grateful 4 what God has already done will lead to him doing more-Lk 17:14-19
3. Thanksgiving increases the strength of your faith (Romans 4:18-20)
4. Thanksgiving leads to multiplication and increase (Jeremiah 30:19)
5. Jesus valued that little bit that they had b/c he his mind it was seed (Mark 8:1-9---See the value of your seed)
6. Being ungrateful will lead you under the foot of your enemies (Deut 28:47-48 AMP)
7. Being ungrateful leads people into confusion (Romans 1:21)