

THANKSGIVING ALWAYS

The Power Of Thanksgiving

- I. Thanksgiving is the result of what you think on, what you look at, it works in the mouth and gets its start in the heart
 - A. Psalm 103:2-Thanksgiving is connected to what you remember, what you forget and even more so what you think about
 1. Bless-Praise-Heb13:15-Praise is the fruit our lips giving thanks to his name; Forget-Ignore, forgotten, not remember
 - B. Psalm 30:1-4,11-12-What he's doing with is mind is triggering thanksgiving in his heart and mouth
 1. Remembrance-Call to mind, be brought to mind; Holiness-Separateness, apartness; 1-3-This is His holiness
 2. Psalm9:1-I will praise you (give thanks), Lord with my whole heart; I will show forth (recount, rehearse) all your marvelous works
 - C. The wandering mind gives birth to a murmuring mouth; If the mind wanders to the wrong stuff the will mouth murmur
 1. Psalm 106:7, Exodus 14:11-12-Because they didn't remember the multitude of his mercies at the Red Sea, it gave birth to the murmuring tone; They're thinking about dying in the wilderness and how it would have been better to stay in Egypt and how they told Moses it was going to happen and thinking about that birthed the murmuring mouth
 - a. *Exodus 14:11-12-And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt? 12 Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness.*
 2. Psalm 106:13, Exodus 15:24, 16:2, 17:3-They forgot God and what He had done and were thinking about dying of thirst in the wilderness, dying of hunger in the wilderness and that birthed the murmuring mouth
 - a. *Exodus 15:24-And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? 16:2- And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness: And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger; 17:3-And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?*
 3. Psalm 106:21-25-Is this forgetting God their savior connected to them murmuring in their tents?
 4. Numbers 11:4-6-Their mind had a propensity to wander back to how good it was in Egypt and when it did here comes the murmuring mouth; They are breathing their first breaths as free people, they are no longer slaves, they saw God's miraculous hand in delivering them, they left Egypt all healed with Egypt's silver and gold and they are getting ready to go to the best place their eyes have ever seen so why aren't they thankful?
 - a. No matter what God does for you, if your mind has a propensity to wander to what you don't have, can't do or can't do you're going to be unthankful; The murmuring mouth is just the evidence of a mishandled thought life
 - B. A lot of times we tell people to be thankful, but don't show them how to be thankful
 1. It's impossible to think about what you are not, what you don't have, what you can't do and be thankful; I can tell you to be thankful night and day, but if you don't look at something else you will never be able to be thankful
 2. Whether you are thankful or not is determined by what you allow yourself to focus on – You're level of thankfulness is determined by your focus; If you fixate on the wrong thing your mouth will go to murmuring
 - a. Thankfulness has nothing to do with what you have; No matter how good you have it, if you focus on the wrong thing you'll be unthankful; No matter how bad it seems if you focus on the right thing you'll be thankful
 3. To be thankful you can't allow yourself to think about what you are not, what you don't have, what you can't do
 - C. The Thanksgiving Principle: You activate thanksgiving by the lifting of the eyes to God; When you get your eyes on who you are in him, what you have in him, what you can do in him it will activate thanksgiving in your life
 1. John 11:41-Mary's mad at Jesus and won't come and see him; Martha's blaming Jesus; Mary finally comes and blames Jesus; Unbelief is running rampant; These are his dear friends, Lazarus who he loved his dead, he spoke something and it doesn't look like it came to pass – If he looks at this he's done for and so he doesn't

2. Matthew 14:1-19-John was murdered; Jesus went to be alone but the people followed him; He healed the sick, preached all day, he is probably tired, hungry, the raw emotions of what happened to John are there, the people won't leave and all they have to feed these people is 2 pieces of fish and 5 loaves of bread; He can't look at this

II. When I look at Him

A. Proverbs 16:15-God's face shines and it's not just bright like light bulbs, it's life, it's goodness, it's glory, it's love

1. Light-Shine, make shine (of the face), bright, illuminated; Countenance-Face; Life-Green (of vegetation), Flowing fresh water, Lively, active (of man), Reviving (of the springtime), Sustain-To bear, To uphold, To support, To hold (To keep from falling), To support (To keep from sinking), To keep alive, To subsist as provisions, To support in any condition by aid, To assist or relieve; Maintenance-Not allow to fail or decline; To support with food and clothing; To defend; Live prosperously, be quickened (from sickness, discouragement, faintness, death), Cause to grow

B. You see multiples times in scripture where people petition for God's face to shine upon them

1. Psalm 31:16-In great adversity and trouble he prays, "Make your face to shine upon your servant."
2. Psalm 67:1-Cause your face to shine upon us; That your saving health may be known among the nations
3. Psalm 119:35-Make your face to shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes
4. Daniel 9:17-Cause your face to shine upon your sanctuary that is desolate

C. Psalm 42:5-The reason people were petitioning for God's face to shine upon them was because of the help of his countenance (The help-victory, deliverance, prosperity, health, preserved; Countenance-Face)

1. Ps80:3,7,19-Cause your face to shine and we will be saved (delivered, helped, victorious)-There's victory in his face
2. Numbers 6:25-There's blessing, sustaining (keep), help (grace to help), favor and shalom (peace) in his face
 - a. 24-**AMP**-Bless you, and keep you [protect you, sustain you, and guard you]; **GNT**-Take care of you; 26-**MSG**-God look you full in the face and make you prosper
3. Psalm 21:1-6-There's joy and strength in his face and his face was the source of all these other good things

D. When we look at God face to face what's on Him we absorb and reflect, we receive and bear

1. Ex 33:11,20,34:29-35-When Moses turned his face to God he absorbed and reflected the light of God's face
 - a. God talked with Moses face to face, but he couldn't see the full measure of that glory as an unborn again man, but he got to see a measure of it and the measure of it that he saw he absorbed and reflected
2. 2 Corinthians 3:18-The mirror is the surface that receives the light, absorbs the light and reflects the light and that's us and so as you behold the Lord you become what you behold
 - a. 13-14-There was a veil on Moses face when it shined with the glory so the people could see him face to face
 - b. 16-When get born again that veil is taken away and there's nothing between me and God and we can and should be looking upon him face to face everyday

E. Psalm 34:5-The looked unto him and were lightened (Shine, radiant, to beam); With what? With what they looked at

1. **CSB**-Those who look to him are radiant with joy; **CEB**-Those who look to God will shine; **CEV**-Keep your eyes on Lord. You will shine like the sun; **YLT**-They looked expectantly unto Him, and they became bright
2. The moon has no ability to shine of itself, it's doesn't generate light or produce light and so the face of the moon that his faced away from the sun is cold and dark, but as that part of the moon turns and faces the sun it absorbs the light and reflects the light and shines bright; If you were to look at the side of that moon that was facing the sun it would look lively, vibrant and strong; If you looked at the side not facing the sun it would look weak, dead, dull
3. If I turn my eyes, my mind, my heart away from God, from his face then I'm going to get dark, cold, dull, dumb, weak because I can't reflect what I won't look at and face-Romans 8:6, Matthew 6:22
4. God told to seek his face (desire, demand, require, request, ask)-1Ch16:11,2Ch7:14,Ps24:6,27:8,105:4

III. John 11:41, Matthew 14:19-The giving of thanks directs the eyes and the heart towards God

- A. Psalm 140:13-When I give thanks I look at Him and He looks at me
- B. Psalm 57:4-11-With my praise (the giving of thanks) I can fix my gaze
 - 1. Heart-Mind, inner man, thinking; Fixed-Fixed to what, fastened to what, attached firmly to what; Sing-Behold (Job 36:24); Praise-Sing praise, make music-9-Praise-Give thanks
 - 2. When his heart is fixed and he's praising who is he looking at God and is then positioned to absorb and reflect, receive and bear what he's looking at
- C. One of the worst things that you can ever do is feel sorry for yourself and be unthankful because it's a turning away from the face of God, it's looking at way from the light of the king's countenance
 - 1. 1 Samuel 1-Hannah is feeling sorry for herself and it produced nothing
 - 2. 1 Kings 21-Ahab feels sorry for himself and he gets dark, he gets dumb, he has no peace stealing, killing and destroying comes out of this and it all started because he yielded to self pity
 - 3. Romans 1:18-20-The truth that God is the creator of this Earth was clear to them and when they knew they didn't glorify Him (Praise, acknowledge) and they weren't thankful and the result was their thinking became void of truth and foolish (stupid) heart got even darker; Being unthankful will make you dumb and dark
 - 4. Phil4:6-7-When you are living the thankful life your eyes and thoughts are stayed on the Lord and your mouth is full of his praise and the result of that is you are kept in perfect peace-Is26:3; Unthankfulness robs you of your peace
 - 5. Romans 4:19-21-Had he focused on their bodies he would have been unthankful and weak, but as he kept his eyes and thoughts on the Lord gave him praise his faith got stronger
 - 6. Mark 4-It cuts you off from increase
- D. 1 Corinthians 10:10-It connects you to the destroyer