

Doctrine of Thanksgiving

1. The Old Testament ceremonial law provided for a thanksgiving offering.
 - *Leviticus 7:11 And this is the law of the sacrifice of peace offerings, which he shall offer unto the LORD. 12 If he offers it for a thanksgiving, then he shall offer with the sacrifice of thanksgiving unleavened cakes mingled with oil, and unleavened wafers anointed with oil, and cakes mingled with oil, of fine flour, fried. 13 Besides the cakes, he shall offer for his offering leavened bread with the sacrifice of thanksgiving of his peace offerings. 14 And of it he shall offer one out of the whole oblation for an heave offering unto the LORD, and it shall be the priest's that sprinkleth the blood of the peace offerings. 15 And the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offerings for thanksgiving shall be eaten the same day that it is offered; he shall not leave any of it until the morning.*
 - *Leviticus 22:29 And when ye will offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving unto the LORD, offer it at your own will.*
 - *Deuteronomy 12:11 Then there shall be a place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD: 12 And ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God, ye, and your sons, and your daughters, and your menservants, and your maidservants, and the Levite that is within your gates; forasmuch as he hath no part nor inheritance with you.*
2. Jesus set the example of giving thanks.
 - Jesus thanked the Father for revealing truth to the elect. *Matthew 11:25 At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.*
 - Jesus thanked the Father for the provision of food. *Matthew 26:27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;*
 - Jesus thanked the Father for hearing the prayers for the resurrection of Lazarus. *John 11:41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.*
3. The heavenly host engaged in the giving of thanks.
 - *Revelation 4:9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,*
4. The motive for the heavenly host's thanks is found in Revelation 11:16-17.

- *Revelation 11:16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, 17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.*

5. Giving of thanks is commanded. It is to be offered to God the Father.

- *Psalms 50:14 Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High:*

- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by Eve
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by Noah
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by Melchizedek
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by Lot
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by Sarah
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by Abraham
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by Abraham's servant (Eliezar)
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by Isaac
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by Leah
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by Rachel
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by Jacob
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by Joseph
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by Moses
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by Miriam
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by Jethro
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by the people of Israel
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by Deborah
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by Hannah
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by Samuel
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by David
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by the Queen of Sheba
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by Hiram
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by the army of Jehoshaphat
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by the Levites
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by the Jews
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by the sailors
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by the shepherds
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by those whom Jesus healed
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by the man who was paralyzed
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by the demon-possessed man who was exorcised
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by the woman who was bent over for eighteen years
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by one of the ten lepers whom Jesus healed
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by blind Bartimaeus
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by the Roman centurion for his boy
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by the lame man healed by Peter
- ❖ Thanksgiving was offered by Paul

6. Thanksgiving is to be offered to God the Son.

- *1 Timothy 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;*
7. The giving of thanks is to be offered through Jesus Christ.
- *Romans 1:8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.*
8. Thanksgiving is to be offered in the authority of Jesus.
- *Ephesians 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;*
9. Thanksgiving is to be made on behalf of God's servants.
- *2 Corinthians 1:11 But you must help us too by praying for us. For much thanks and praise will go to God from you who see his wonderful answers to your prayers for our safety! (TLB)*
10. Thanksgiving is to be offered during private devotions.
- *Daniel 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.*
11. Thanksgiving is to be offered in public assemblies.
- *Psalm 35:18 I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people.*
12. Thanksgiving is to be offered in every situation.
- *1 Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*
13. Specific situations for giving of thanks can be noted in Scripture.
- Upon the completion of a great project. *Nehemiah 12:31 Then I brought up the princes of Judah upon the wall, and appointed two great companies of them that gave thanks, whereof one went on the right hand upon the wall toward the dung gate:*
 - Before receiving food. *John 6:11 And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.*

14. Gospel motives for giving of thanks.

- Give thanks for God's holiness. *Psalm 30:4 Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.*
- Give thanks for the goodness and mercy of God. *Psalm 106:1 Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.*
- Give thanks for the gift of Christ. *2 Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.*
- Give thanks for Christ's power and reign. *Revelation 11:17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.*
- Give thanks for the reception and effectual working of the Word of God in others. *1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*
- Give thanks for deliverance from indwelling sin, through Christ. *Romans 7:23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? 25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.*
- Give thanks for victory over death and the grave. *1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- Give thanks for the granting of wisdom and might. *Daniel 2:23 I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter.*
- Give thanks for the triumph of the gospel. *2 Corinthians 2:14 Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.*
- Give thanks for the conversion of others. *Romans 6:17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.*
- Give thanks for great faith exhibited by others. *Romans 1:8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.*

- Give thanks for love exhibited by others. *2 Thessalonians 1:3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;*
- Give thanks for the gospel fellowship of the saints. *Philippians 1:3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, 5 For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;*
- Give thanks for the zeal exhibited by others. *2 Corinthians 8:16 But thanks be to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you.*
- Give thanks for the nearness of God's presence. *Psalms 75:1 Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks: for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare.*
- Give thanks for allowing a participation in spiritual service. *1 Timothy 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;*
- Give thanks for the opportunity to invest in God's service. *1 Chronicles 29:6 Then the chief of the fathers and princes of the tribes of Israel, and the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the rulers of the king's work, offered willingly, 7 And gave for the service of the house of God of gold five thousand talents and ten thousand drams, and of silver ten thousand talents, and of brass eighteen thousand talents, and one hundred thousand talents of iron. 8 And they with whom precious stones were found gave them to the treasure of the house of the LORD, by the hand of Jehiel the Gershonite. 9 Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy. 10 Wherefore David blessed the LORD before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be thou, LORD God of Israel our father, for ever and ever. 11 Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. 12 Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. 13 Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name. 14 But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? For all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.*
- Give thanks for the supply of our bodily needs. *Romans 14:6 He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks. 7 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.*

15. Thanksgiving is to be accompanied by intercession for others.

- *1 Timothy 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all [types of] men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.*

16. Thanksgiving should always accompany prayer.

- *Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

17. Thanksgiving should always accompany praise.

- *Psalm 92:1 It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High:*
- *Hebrews 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.*

18. God's people should resolve to give thanks.

- *Psalm 18:49 Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name.*

19. Nothing and no one should deter the giving of thanks.

- *Daniel 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.*

20. God is magnified in the giving of thanks.

- *Psalm 69:30 I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.*