

# Thirty Thankful Days

By Doug Hamilton

## In the Law there was an offering of thanksgiving to God.

- *Leviticus 7:11–13* ‘Now this is the law of the sacrifice of peace offerings which shall be presented to the LORD.’<sup>12</sup> ‘If he offers it by way of thanksgiving, then along with the sacrifice of thanksgiving he shall offer unleavened cakes mixed with oil, and unleavened wafers spread with oil, and cakes of well stirred fine flour mixed with oil.’<sup>13</sup> ‘With the sacrifice of his peace offerings for thanksgiving, he shall present his offering with cakes of leavened bread.’
- This was something that was to be a part of the people of God from the very beginning of the nation of Israel.
- Many times throughout the history of Israel this had become neglected even to the point of falling away from the faith. It would take a major event to renew such a sacrifice and begin the flow of a National Attitude of Gratitude.

## Example: King Hezekiah

When Hezekiah became king over Israel, he began a series of reforms to draw back to God from a nation of pagans. When he reinstated temple worship and the Passover sacrifice, it was also with the offering of thanksgiving.

- Temple Worship -2 *Chronicles 29:31* Then Hezekiah said, “Now that you have consecrated yourselves to the LORD, come near and bring sacrifices and thank offerings to the house of the LORD.” And the assembly brought sacrifices and thank offerings, and all those who were willing brought burnt offerings.
- The Passover -2 *Chronicles 30:22* Then Hezekiah spoke encouragingly to all the Levites who showed good insight in the things of the LORD. So they ate for the appointed seven days, sacrificing peace offerings and giving thanks to the LORD God of their fathers.

## He made it an intended part of the everyday life for Israel.

- *2 Chronicles 31:2* And Hezekiah appointed the divisions of the priests and the Levites by their divisions, each according to his service, both the priests and the Levites, for burnt offerings and for peace offerings, to minister and to give thanks and to praise in the gates of the camp of the LORD.

## Application for the Christian

- It was with this concept in mind that the writer of Hebrews wrote *Hebrews 13:15* *Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.*
- Many times we struggle with our faith not because we do not love Him, but that we have stopped thanking Him in the way we are to do. Since it is the weekend of Thanksgiving, I wanted to invite you on a practical journey that I have planned for myself. I call it the “Thirty Thankful Days” challenge. Here it is.
- Tomorrow morning, immediately at the beginning of your day, take just five minutes in prayer, thanking God for the first item on the list. Working down through the list over the next thirty days, rejoice in the knowledge that you have offered an ample supply of the fruit of thankfulness that comes from your lips.

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## Thirty Thankful Day Challenge

- 1) Thank God for the Bible.
  - Psalm 138:2 I will bow down toward Your holy temple And give thanks to Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word according to all Your name.
  - Thank God for His wonderful inspired word given for our spiritual lives.
- 2) Thank God for Prayer.
  - Colossians 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with *an attitude of* thanksgiving;
  - Focus with thankfulness unto God that He has given us the incredibly powerful tool of prayer.
- 3) Thank God for His Foreknowledge.
  - 2 Thessalonians 2:13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.
  - Thank God for the ability He has to infinitely know everything concerning us.
- 4) Thank God for Creation.
  - Psalm 139:14 I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.
  - Thank God for His marvelous creation, from the smallest of insects to the largest of whales, thank Him for His genius designs and master planning.
- 5) Thank God for Jesus Christ.
  - Anna when learning of baby Jesus: -Luke 2:38 At that very moment she {Anna} came up and *began* giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.
  - Thank God that He sent His only begotten Son into the world to live a life of righteousness, demonstrate boldness and humility, die for our sins and receive us into glory.
- 6) Thank God for Salvation.
  - Hebrews 12:28 Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;
  - Thank God for saving us from this crooked and perverse generation. We were lost, but now we are found.
- 7) Thank God for His grace.
  - 2 Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!
  - Thank God for the incredible grace that He bestows on us who believed. We cannot earn it, but must be given it, for it is grace.
- 8) Thank God for Victory.
  - 2 Corinthians 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.
  - Thank God in meditation of the victory we have through Jesus Christ our Lord. Focus deeply with gratitude of the hope that is in us.

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### 9) Thank God for freedom from Sin.

- Romans 6:17–18 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.
- Thank God that He has freed us from a life of sin and death. Sin is no longer our master, but God Himself.

### 10) Thank God for a Testimony.

- Romans 1:8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world.
- Thank God that He gives us a message of hope to share with the word. We have a great testimony of what He has done for us.

### 11) Thank God for the church family.

- Philippians 1:3–5 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now.
- Thank God for the wonderful church family of God to share this life and the afterlife to come. Together we share the struggles, joys and anticipation of eternal life.

### 12) Thank God for your earthly Family.

- i. Husbands - Colossians 3:18 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.
  - ii. Wives -Prov 31:10 (ESV) A good woman is hard to find, and worth far more than diamonds.
  - iii. Children -Psalm 127:3 (ESV) Don't you see that children are GOD's best gift? the fruit of the womb his generous legacy?
- They are the ones that should be the closest to us; therefore we must be thankful to God for them. Thank god for each and every member of your family whether they are in the church family or not.

### 13) Thank God for the Lost.

- Luke 15:1–2 Now all the tax collectors and the sinners were coming near Him to listen to Him. Both the Pharisees and the scribes *began* to grumble, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”
- We need to be thanking God for the lost souls around us, for He has entrusted us with the message of salvation for them.

### 14) Thank God for our Homes.

- Matthew 8:20 Jesus said to him, “The foxes have holes and the birds of the air *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” From this day forward, Jesus was pretty much homeless, for He was on the road for life.
- Thank Him for your home, for we are not promised a home in this life, but the afterlife. Thank Him for your bedroom, your kitchen, your bathroom, your dining room, your living room, your camper, your tent, your sleeping bag and even the pillow you lay your head on at night.

### 15) Thank God for your health.

- 3 John 2 Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.

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- Be thanking God for what health you do have, either good or bad. If it is good, praise God for the extension to serve Him! If it is bad, praise God for you are closer to glory!
- 16) Thank God for Food.
- Mark 8:6 And He directed the people to sit down on the ground; and taking the seven loaves, He gave thanks and broke them, and started giving them to His disciples to serve to them, and they served them to the people.
  - Thank God for all the food that is available to us while much of the world does not have enough.
- 17) Thank God for our Clothing.
- 1 Timothy 6:7–8 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.
  - Thank Him for your coat that shelters you from the cold; thank God for the clothes that modestly cover you; thank God for your shoes that house your feet; thank Him for it all.
- 18) Thank God for our Weaknesses.
- 2 Corinthians 12:10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.
  - Thank God that we are not Supermen, but utterly dependent on Him and undergirded by His power.
- 19) Thank God for our Employment.
- 2 Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.
  - Thank Him for the paycheck, the co-workers and the boss. Let God know you are grateful for them all and a means to provide for your family. Thank Him like you really appreciate your paycheck!
- 20) Thank God for our Leaders.
- 1 Timothy 2:1–2 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties *and* prayers, petitions *and* thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.
  - Thank God for all the leaders in your life, from the elders to the President, they are all there because He put them there for us.
- 21) Thank God for His Strength.
- 1 Timothy 1:12 “I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me...”
  - Focus your prayer in thanks for the strength that God provides in moments of weakness.
- 22) Thank God for His Encouragement.
- Acts 28:14–15 There we found *some* brethren, and were invited to stay with them for seven days; and thus we came to Rome. And the brethren, when they heard about us, came from there as far as the Market of Appius and Three Inns to meet us; and when Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage.
  - Thank God for all those moments in your life that a gleam of hope shined through the dark clouds of despair.

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### 23) Thank God for His Opportunities.

- Acts 14:27 When they had arrived and gathered the church together, they *began* to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.
- Thanks God for all the doors of opportunity of that He puts before us. Where would we be without them?

### 24) Thank God for His Kingdom.

- Revelation 4:9 “And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne...”
- Thank God for being your King and Ruler of your life. Thank Him that He allows us to be part of the kingdom. Thank Him that He wants to share that Kingdom with him forever!

### 25) Thank God for His Attentiveness.

- John 11:41 So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.”
- Thank Him for being willing and able to hear your prayers and attend to your needs, even when you do not really know them.

### 26) Thank God for His Righteousness

- Psalm 7:17 I will give thanks to the LORD according to His righteousness And will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.
- Thank God that He is so perfect and right in everything He does, in all His thought and motives.

### 27) Thank God for His love.

- 2 Chronicles 20:21 “Give thanks to the LORD, for His lovingkindness is everlasting.”
- Thank God for His wonderful, unending love for each and every person on earth.

### 28) Thank God for His Protection.

- 2 Samuel 22:49–50 “Who also brings me out from my enemies; You even lift me above those who rise up against me; You rescue me from the violent man. “Therefore I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the nations...”
- Thank God that He is constantly watching out over us, keeping a world of fear and doubts from overtaking us.

### 29) Thank God for His Peace

- Philippians 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- Thank Him for the peace that He can bring into your life. Thank Him for the calm that He wants us to have for trusting His Son.

### 30) Thank God for His Eternity.

- Ps 52:9 I will thank you forever, because you have done it.
- Thank Him for the time in our lives when there will be no time. Thank Him that He is able to give us an eternal life to worship Him through the Son.