

The Power of Thanksgiving:  
For Shaping Healthy Life in Christian Community

Why is thanksgiving so vital, so central to the nature of passionate Christianity?

*“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe .” Hebrews 12:28*

*“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:18*

*“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:17*

Thankless ness takes the edge off of our total trust and dependency on God, especially in the rough patches of life.

*5 k e y truths about THANKSGIVING as an essential quality to develop for energizing your Christian living.*

1. Thanksgiving protects us from being lured away by fine-sounding arguments and hollow philosophies (Col. 2:1-9).

*“ So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*

*See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual force s of this world rather than on Christ. ” Colossians 2:6-8*

The world is building a different human and a different community by a different value system.

In Christ are hidden ALL the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Christ is completely sufficient for all we need to grow rich in soul-growing knowledge and wisdom.

2. Thanksgiving keeps us from verbally abusing one another and in turn deconstructing the church.

*“Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.” Ephesians 5:4*

Off-coloured innuendos, relentless verbal barbs and silly talk can deeply scar feelings and set spiritual progress back .

3. Thanksgiving is protection for your prayer life from being immobilized by evil attacks.

*“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” Colossians 4:2*

There is a definite link between watchful and thanksgiving.

If you remain thankful no matter what, neither Satan’s fiery darts nor difficult trials will be able to turn you away from your passion for Christ. The enemy will exploit t he least little sign of resentment or ingratitude so you will become sloppy and not alert and may fall to temptation.

4. Thanksgiving prevents us from becoming proud and forgetting t hat there is a God in heaven – a Christ who gave his life for our ransom.

*“For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.” Romans 1:21*

If thanksgiving stops, worship stops, thinking becomes futile and dark, lives are ruined, and community is destroyed.

5. Thanksgiving ( eucharist e o ) is the context the Lord chose to establish the enduring symbol of our unity and membership in his Body.

*“And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.” Luke 22:19-20*

*“ Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!” 2 Corinthians 9:15*

In defining what it means to be Christ's community, he called us to "thanksgiving" .

For:

- Surpassing grace to us
- Peace with God through salvation
- Being loved in community
- Guilt lifted through forgiveness and pardon
- Being changed by the powerful internal presence of a God of love
- Life forever in the age to come - no more death , mourning, crying, pain.