

DEVELOPING A THANKFUL HEART

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I. WHY BE CONCERNED ABOUT HAVING A THANKFUL HEART? *(Additional Considerations)*

1. GOD COMMANDS US TO _____

“⁴ Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim his greatness. Let the whole world know what he has done.” Psalm 105:4

“¹⁶ Always be joyful. ¹⁷ Never stop praying. ¹⁸ Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

“¹⁵ And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.” Colossians 3:15

“² Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.” Colossians 4:2

2. LACK OF THANKFULNESS IS THE _____

“²⁰ For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. ²¹ 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 1:20-21

3. LACK OF THANKFULNESS ALWAYS FINDS _____

“³³ A tree is identified by its fruit. If a tree is good, its fruit will be good. If a tree is bad, its fruit will be bad. ³⁴ You brood of snakes! How could evil men like you speak what is good and right? For whatever is in your heart determines what you say. ³⁵ A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. ³⁶ And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak.” Matthew 12:33-36

4. GRUMBLING AND COMPLAINING _____

“¹⁴ Do everything without complaining and arguing, ¹⁵ so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people.” Philippians 2:14-15

“¹ I don’t want you to forget, dear brothers and sisters, about our ancestors in the wilderness long ago. All of them were guided by a cloud that moved ahead of them, and all of them walked through the sea on dry ground... ⁵ Yet God was not pleased with most of them, and their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. ⁶ These things happened as a warning to us, so that we would not crave evil things as they did... ¹⁰ And don’t grumble as some of them did, and then were destroyed by the angel of death. ¹¹ These things happened to them as examples for us. They were written down to warn us who live at the end of the age.” 1 Corinthians 10:1 & 5-6, & 11

5. COMPLAINING DEMONSTRATES A LACK OF _____ AND A HEART OF

“⁸ Then Moses added, “The Lord will give you meat to eat in the evening and bread to satisfy you in the morning, for he has heard all your complaints against him. What have we done? Yes, your complaints are against the Lord, not against us.” Exodus 16:8

“¹⁸ So the Lord must wait for you to come to him so he can show you his love and compassion. For the Lord is a faithful God. Blessed are those who wait for his help.” Isaiah 30:18

II. HOW TO DEVELOP A THANKFUL HEART

1. LEARN TO TRUST _____

“⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.” Proverbs 3:5

“³¹ ‘So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ ³² These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. ³³ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.” Matthew 6:31-33

“⁷ The Lord is my strength and shield. I trust him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy. I burst out in songs of thanksgiving.” Psalm 28:7

“²⁸ And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.” Romans 8:28

2. RECOGNIZE I HAVE RECEIVED FAR MORE _____

“²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23

“¹⁰ As the Scriptures say, “No one is righteous—not even one. ¹¹ No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. ¹² All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one.” Romans 3:10-12

3. CHOOSE TO GIVE THANKS REGARDLESS OF _____

“¹⁶ Always be joyful. ¹⁷ Never stop praying. ¹⁸ Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

“⁶ Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. ⁷ Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7

4. PRACTICE GIVING THANKS FOR _____

“²⁰ And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 5:20

“¹⁷ And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.” Colossians 3:17

“²⁰ And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 5:20

5. DECIDE TO ALWAYS _____ **EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE**

“⁴ This is what the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, the God of Israel, says to all the captives he has exiled to Babylon from Jerusalem: ⁵ “Build homes, and plan to stay. Plant gardens, and eat the food they produce. ⁶ Marry and have children. Then find spouses for them so that you may have many grandchildren. Multiply! Do not dwindle away! ⁷ And work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare.”” Jeremiah 29:4-7

KEY: Follow _____

¹ When Joseph was taken to Egypt by the Ishmaelite traders, he was purchased by Potiphar, an Egyptian officer. Potiphar was captain of the guard for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. ² The Lord was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did as he served in the home of his Egyptian master. ³ Potiphar noticed this and realized that the Lord was with Joseph, giving him success in everything he did. ⁴ This pleased Potiphar, so he soon made Joseph his personal attendant. He put him in charge of his entire household and everything he owned. ⁵ From the day Joseph was put in charge of his master's household and property, the Lord began to bless Potiphar's household for Joseph's sake. All his household affairs ran smoothly, and his crops and livestock flourished. ⁶ So Potiphar gave Joseph complete administrative responsibility over everything he owned. With Joseph there, he didn't worry about a thing—except what kind of food to eat!...

¹⁹ Potiphar was furious when he heard his wife's story about how Joseph had treated her. ²⁰ So he took Joseph and threw him into the prison where the king's prisoners were held, and there he remained. ²¹ But the Lord was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love. And the Lord made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden. ²² Before long, the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison. ²³ The warden had no more worries, because Joseph took care of everything. The Lord was with him and caused everything he did to succeed." Genesis 39:1-6 & 19-23

6. LEARN TO _____

"⁴ Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart's desires." Psalm 37:4

"¹⁵ Happy are those who hear the joyful call to worship, for they will walk in the light of your presence, LORD." Psalm 89:15

7. REMEMBER, AS A CHRIST-FOLLOWER, I'M, IN A SENSE, _____**FOR A BETTER LIFE TO COME & I'M _____**

"⁴⁴ The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field." Matthew 13:44

"¹⁸ Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will give us later." Romans 8:18

"¹¹ Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls." 1 Peter 2:11

"² Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. ³ For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory." Colossians 3:2-4

8. REGULARLY TAKE TIME OUT TO _____ MY GRATITUDE TO GOD

"¹⁶ From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another." John 1:16

"¹¹ But then I recall all you have done, O Lord; I remember your wonderful deeds of long ago. ¹² They are constantly in my thoughts. I cannot stop thinking about your mighty works." Psalm 77:11-12

"⁸ Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do." Joshua 1:8

"⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name." Psalm 100:4