

DAY 1 | Gratitude To God

“Yours O Lord is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O Lord is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name”. 1 Chronicles 29:11-13

Gratitude to God is a wellspring of living water. It roots out all kinds of evil. Discontent, self pity, jealousy and pride are no match for divine thankfulness. Gratitude to God is rooted in a realization of His character and what He has done for us. Everything is God’s and everything comes from God. His majestic creation bows down and worships Him as a reflection of His glory. Nations and rulers, consciously or unconsciously, are under His authority. Moreover, money and respect come from God. He is the owner of all things.

Because He owns everything, He is ultimately responsible. And because He is responsible, He can be trusted. We can enjoy Him, His creation, His resources, His freedom and each other. Christianity has its privileges. For the follower of Jesus Christ, heaven is sure and sin has lost its grip. There is a glorious gratitude that erupts from our being when we reflect on God’s glorious riches. “And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).

Gratitude to God is one of the secrets to living the Christian life. Glorious gratitude means we never get over what He has done for us, what He is doing for us and what He will do for us. It is a remembering His past, present and future faithfulness. Glorious gratitude is transformational, because it is God focused. The cares of this world melt like wax under the heat of heavenly appreciation. Have you thanked God for being God?

Godly gratitude understands what could have happen to you, were it not for the grace of God. But, because of the Lord’s intervention, He delivered you. It could have been a fatal car accident, but it was not. It could have been an immediate death, but it was not. It could have a divorce, but it was not. It could have been a lifelong prodigal child, but it was not. It could have been a dead end job, but it was not. It could have been a relational wreck, but it was not. You could still be lost in your sins, but you are not!

He is worthy of praise, gratitude and adoration. What a great and mighty God we serve. So, everyday take a bath with the soap of gratitude to God. Your attitude and actions will become clean and fresh. People will run toward you with interest, rather than avoiding you in your misery. Gratitude is a magnet for God and people. It makes you pleasant rather than distasteful. Wear it well and wear it regularly. It is one fashion statement that never goes out of style. Gratitude to the Most High is attractive to the Lord and the lost.

“We give thanks to you, O God, we give thanks, for your Name is near; men tell of your wonderful deeds” (Psalm 75:1)

Related Readings: [Daniel 2:23](#); [6:10](#); [Acts 28:15](#); [Romans 1:21](#)

DAY 2 | Gratitude Speak Up

“One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.” Luke 17:15-16

Gratitude cannot keep quiet. Like a giddy fan at their favorite sporting event—emotions explode in cheers over a well-executed play. Heart felt thanksgiving has to escape and express itself to those who contributed to this cause for joy. If verbal gratitude is withheld then those who remain silent miss out on bringing public praise to God. Ultimately, Jesus is behind every good gift, and many times He uses His people in the process of a blessing.

An outcast of society becomes an insider with God through thoughtful and verbal thanksgiving to Him. Do you still exhibit a humble attitude of gratitude or have you graduated beyond gratefulness? In fact, the more you grow in the grace of God, the more thankful you become. You show up and speak up with thanksgiving. At work you thank your team leader for employment and trust God with opportunities for advancement.

“We have enjoyed a long period of peace under you, and your foresight has brought about reforms in this nation. Everywhere and in every way, most excellent Felix, we acknowledge this with profound gratitude.” Acts 24:2-3

It is easy to get caught up in busy living and forget to thank those who gave us a chance to develop our gifts for God’s glory. Has your Pastor heard from you since you went off to school and applied his teachings to your life and relationships? Have you gone back and blessed the teacher/mentor who inspired your career? When was the last time you looked your parents in the eyes and explained how their example of consistent character caused you to follow hard after Christ? True thanksgiving takes time to say thank you!

Furthermore, it is praise and thanksgiving to God that is the pinnacle of gratitude. Your gratitude to God generates generosity and bubbles up joy in your heart. Your marriage of humility and thanksgiving invites a dinner reception that feasts on contentment, peace, hope, happiness and security. Open wide your mouth with words of thanksgiving and watch the Lord do wonderful works around you. Gratitude speaks up to its Savior!

“Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.” Colossians 3:16

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for healing my heart and giving me Your joy.

Related Readings: [Psalm 147:7](#); [Jonah 2:9](#); [Romans 16:4](#); [Colossians 4:2](#)

Post/Tweet this today: Wisdom exhibits a humble attitude of gratitude and never graduates beyond gratefulness. #gratitude

DAY 3 | Gratitude Shows Up

“Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him.” Acts 8:2

When a life has been well spent and invested in the Kingdom of God, admirers show up to pay honor at their homegoing to heaven. The godly show up to honor the death of the godly. It is gratitude to God that compels Christ followers to attend the funeral of another faithful brother or sister in the faith. Mourning comforts the one suffering loss and shows appreciation for the loved one's life. Gratitude shows up to empathize with a shaky soul.

If we are grateful for someone we show up for the important milestones in their lives. Graduations, school plays, art lessons, surgery, sonograms, athletic events, dance recitals, grandparent's day, an open house, retirement, or a friend's big birthday are all events to attend and express support and gratitude. Attendance communicates appreciation. Our body may be weary, but our spirit compels us to be there for those who need us to care.

“So we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.” 1 Thessalonians 2:8

Gratitude honors your parents. What makes them feel appreciated? Perhaps a handwritten note or a typed letter reflecting how they have blessed you over the years with their love and support—especially during the trying times in your teen years. You can celebrate their wedding anniversary with a surprise destination event they wouldn't plan for themselves. So, be creative in communicating gratitude to your dad and mom.

Furthermore, show up in gratitude for those activities that are near and dear to the heart of your heavenly Father. Church, praise and worship, bible study, missions, community service, loving a dying neighbor and giving hilariously towards heaven's heart. You are motivated by appreciation because of the Lord's great love toward you. You can't out give Christ, but you can express your gratitude to Him by showing up on His behalf!

“She is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the Lord's people, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.” 1 Timothy 5:10

Prayer: Heavenly Father, give me gratitude and gumption to show up for You.

Related Readings: [Isaiah 30:18](#); [Luke 18:1](#); [2 Corinthians 12:15](#); [1 John 3:16](#)

Post/Tweet this today: Gratitude for someone shows up for the important milestones in their lives. Attendance shows appreciation. #appreciate

DAY 4 | Gratitude and Contentment

“Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus”. 1 Thessalonians 5:18... “I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want”. Philippians 4:12

Gratitude and contentment go together like turkey and dressing. They feed each other, and are both fostered by faith. When I remember how God has so richly blessed me, I am overwhelmed by His generosity. For example, for His salvation in His son Jesus, I am eternally grateful. His gift of grace, I am grateful for its freedom. His forgiveness, I am grateful for guilt-free living. His love, I am grateful for the ability to love and be loved.

His holiness, I am grateful His character can be trusted and is transformational. Stuff is secondary, while the blessings of faith, family, friends and fitness grow our contentment. We may not have what we want, or even deserve, but in Christ we have all that is necessary. So, be humbly grateful to God, and contentment will increase its influence.

“The fear of the LORD leads to life; then one rests content, untouched by trouble”. Proverbs 19:23

Contentment is to rest in Christ, trusting He is in control. Circumstances, good or bad, are an opportunity for Him to show Himself faithful. So, once you go to God in gratitude, you can live life in contentment knowing Christ is in control. Contentment is not passive and uninformed, but rather it is engaged and educated. It is not anxious. It replaces worry with work, pity with prayer, pride with humility, and grumbling with gratitude.

Your peace and stability is the fruit of contentment, which grows out of the ground of gratitude. Seed this soil in prayer, and you will see abundance abound. You are able to accommodate in adversity, because the Almighty has gone before you. You are able to bridle wants in prosperity, because gratitude to God and contentment in Christ governs your generosity. Thank God often, and trust Him to cultivate your contentment.

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13).

Prayer: What are some reasons for my gratitude to God, and how can I express my contentment in Christ?

Related Readings: [Job 1:21](#); [Colossians 2:6-7](#); [2 Corinthians 6:4-10](#); [Ephesians 4:20-24](#)

Post/Tweet this today: Contentment grows out of the ground of gratitude. #contentment #gratitude

DAY 5 | Thanksgiving to God

You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God... Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:11, 15

Gratitude to God is a natural overflow of generosity. For example, the gift of salvation in Christ is indescribable. He gave when we did not deserve. He still gives, even though we are undeserving. His gift of liberty is freeing; His gift of health is healing; His gift of relationships is rich; His gift of peace is calming; His gift of wisdom is confidence; His gift of the Holy Spirit is comforting; His gift of finances is security; His gift of Himself is reassuring and humbling. Gratitude explodes from our hearts when we are reminded of His generous gifts. They are incomparable and incomprehensible. Thanksgiving to God is a tremendous opportunity to unleash joy. This is one of the fruits of gratitude. Joy, joy, joy, joy down in our hearts, because He came down to earth and into our heart. This is an occasion for a raucous but righteous celebration.

Gratitude to God can be a moment-by-moment expression. Even in the middle of the worst of circumstances, your thanksgiving to God is appropriate and needed. Look beyond your current condition to your heavenly hope. He has prepared a place for you, and His preparations are not lacking. They are just what you need and desire. So, your thanksgiving is for what He has done in the past, His current provision, and what He has prepared for you in the future. God's generosity is without competition. You can be very, very grateful for this. Let thanksgiving escape from your lips often. Use it to put out the fires of fear and worry before they spread too far. Thanks be to God for you are made rich.

Yes, in Christ you are made rich. You have everything needed for this life in Christ. As a upshot of your management of His riches, you can be ridiculously generous. This is the natural result of thanksgiving. Because of your deep gratitude to God, you are called and compelled to give. Gratitude invites you to generosity. You cannot experience authentic thanksgiving and not see it birth giving. It is a beautiful process: because God has given to you, you give to others. At the moment you receive the gift of God, generosity is conceived in your heart.

This is why your heart feels pregnant with thanksgiving. It will explode without the regular birthing of generosity to others. This expression of gratitude results in action. It is tangibly and regularly giving to people for whom Christ died. The poor need food, a job, and Jesus; orphans need parents, a home, and Jesus; divorcees need acceptance, healing, and Jesus; the angry ones need gentleness and Jesus; the confused need clarity and Jesus; the bankrupt need financial wholeness and Jesus. Opportunities abound that invite your generous expression of gratitude. Gratitude is one of God's prescriptions for discontentment. The two cannot comfortably coexist. Thanksgiving gives the credit for your accomplishments to God and others. Without either, you would not be in your current position of influence and success. Gratitude is generous. Gratitude is content. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift. The Bible says, ***"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever"*** (1 Chronicles 16:34).

Taken from the November 24th reading in the 365-day devotional book, "Seeking Daily the Heart of God" volume 1... <http://bit.ly/Tv6y9a>

Post/Tweet today: Gratitude to God follows receiving the extravagant generosity of God.
#thanksgivingtoGod

DAY 6 | Gratitude Gene

“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 5:18-20

A heart controlled by the Holy Spirit is grateful, as the gene of gratitude is in the DNA of a disciple of Jesus Christ. Once the Spirit of God vaccinates the soul with gratitude it prevents the virus of discontentment and complaining to control a life. Gone is murmuring and it is replaced with an appreciative attitude that is helpful and hopeful.

“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other” (Galatians 5:24-26).

Anyone can define the obvious of a difficult situation, but a positive problem solver is able to bring prayerful and thoughtful solutions to bear. So, in the work environment, it's imperative we engage associates who are able to bring new information to the discussion and share with other team members fresh insights and deep discernment. Gratitude grows those around it to be thankful and intentional in developing valuable and creative ideas.

Gratitude is able to navigate around relational ruts and get to the bottom of real issues. We want to be around people grateful to God—because it is infectious. You can see it in the calm of their countenance, you can hear it in their soothing speech and you can feel it in the positive energy of their emotions. Indeed, gratitude governs people to serve people.

“Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts” (Colossians 3:16).

Worship to God bursts forth from a grateful heart captured by Christ. When you reflect on the richness of your salvation in Jesus, your heart and soul lifts praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. It may be a joyful noise—but you need not worry—because Almighty God looks at the heart, not your harmony. A melody of grateful praise to your Master Jesus brings joy. So, sing out in worship with a smile on your face and a song in your heart.

“But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, ‘Salvation comes from the LORD’” (Jonah 2:9).

Am I controlled by the Holy Spirit or by the enemy's lies? Am I a grateful worshiper?

Related Readings: [Psalm 100:1](#); [147:7](#); [Acts 24:2-4](#); [Romans 16:4](#)

DAY 7 | Grateful for Good

I will sing to the Lord, for he has been good to me. Psalm 13:6

God has been good to us. His goodness is liberal and long lasting. His goodness is far-reaching. It extends to the embarrassment of failure and to the pride of success. His goodness is good. If we could eat the goodness of God it would not only satisfy our hunger, but fill us with trusting delight. Because He is God, He is good. There is nothing that soils the character of our Savior. The salvation we have in Jesus is good. The comfort we have in Christ is good. The wisdom we gain by applying God's principles is good. His answers to prayer are good. His forgiveness is good. His grace is good. Heaven is good. God is so good to us. We can't help but exclaim His goodness in praise and adoration. We sing to the Lord because His goodness compels us.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God” (Colossians 3:16).

Gratitude gushes forth from a heart that has been tamed by the goodness of God. God has been good to us. The recognition of His goodness governs our gratitude. To the extent we remember how good God is to us, is the degree of appreciation we apply in our everyday life. His goodness to us draws out gratitude in spades. His goodness invites gratitude. Moreover, He extends His goodness to us personally. It is not just one gigantic, corporate application of goodness to a nation that allows freedom of religion and free enterprise. He applies His goodness to our individual situations, as a mother who prepares a delicious meal for her family. Perhaps He has given us a good job, good health, good sense, a good house, and a good family. It is the grace of God that allows us to experience His goodness. When we linger under the cross of Christ, we encounter the shade of His goodness. As the song says, “God is so good. God is so good. God is so good. He's so good to me.”

Therefore, when we are under the bright light of God's goodness, any influence of bad is blinded. Gratitude and a bad attitude cannot coexist. Take the time to list the good things the Lord has done for you. Keep your list close by so when you are tempted to complain over trivial issues like traffic, another's tardiness, waiting in line, or not getting what you want, you can apply gratitude. People worldwide who love Jesus and make one dollar a day do this all the time. They do not allow their circumstances or financial limitations determine their gratitude. They are grateful because of the goodness of God that governs their attitude and actions. Passion may possess an unbridled body, but patience controls a grateful soul. His goodness beckons us to be good.

Goodness gives off goodness. It rubs off on others. God's goodness infects us so that we can infect others. We are “carriers” for Christ. We are good to others because God has been good to us. Our goodness does not discriminate. We are good to others even when they are undeserving. This is the nature of God's goodness. Be patient with the one who doesn't deserve patience. Love the one who's done nothing to deserve love. Forgive the one who doesn't deserve forgiveness. This is good. This is what Jesus would do. Receive God's goodness. Apply it gratefully. He has been so extremely good to us.

Post/Tweet this today: God's goodness invites our gratitude. #goodness #gratitude

DAY 8 | Ongoing Gratitude

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

It is God’s will to give thanks in all circumstances. How can this be? Yes, in triumph and good things, but am I to be grateful in defeat and bad things? Christ’s thoughts many times are counter-intuitive to man’s shallow assumptions. The Lord in His wonderful wisdom understands the advantage of thanksgiving in prosperity and adversity.

Perhaps, we experience the marriage of a child and their fiancé who love the Lord, and we rejoice and give Him the glory. Conversely—we have the heartbreak of a child—who cannot keep their marriage together, and it ends in divorce. It is in this dark day of disappointment that we still say to our Savior: “Thank you for working all things out for the good of those who love you”. Thanksgiving governs our joy, peace and contentment.

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28).

Gratitude is also first cousins with humility. It’s out of the fertile soil of thanksgiving that humility is able to grow and flourish. Gratitude says, “Thank you God for giving me salvation in Jesus”, while humility says, “I want to go deeper in my intimacy with Jesus”. Gratitude says, “Friends are a gift from God”, while humility says, “How can I serve them?”

“I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints” (Philemon 1:4-5).

Furthermore, gratitude gives you the positive energy to engage life and live it to the fullest. It is out of your thanksgiving that you are able to understand God’s will and follow Jesus wholeheartedly. You can complain to Christ, just not about Christ. He wants more for you than you want for yourself, so be extremely grateful, ever rejoicing in Him.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God” (Philippians 4:6).

How has the Lord blessed my life? How can I express my gratitude to Him and others?

Related Readings: [Psalm 118:28](#); [Daniel 2:23](#); [Colossians 3:17](#); [Hebrews 12:28](#)

DAY 9 | Grateful Giver

Christians give because they have so much to be grateful for. Our gratitude starts with our salvation in Jesus, as He saves us from our sin and saves us from eternity without God. New life in Christ creates an abundance of grace that gives us the faith, love, joy and hope to represent Jesus to a wandering world. Gratitude begins with God's goodness.

“What shall I return to the LORD for all his goodness to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD” (Psalm 116:12-13).

A grateful person is not concerned about what they can get, but only what they can give. As gratitude makes its way into the fabric of our faith we voluntarily engage the needs of others. It may be a work associate who needs help reaching a deadline, a mission trip to dig a water well for the poor, an unwed relative who needs a baby shower or foster parents that need a weekend break. Grateful service to the needy grows our faith.

“If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.” (Isaiah 58:10).

Furthermore a grateful man or woman sees their service on behalf of God as a privilege. Like a patriotic serviceman they don't wait to be drafted, rather they enthusiastically enlist into the Lord's army. A grateful child of God proudly represents heaven (his home country) in battle against the enemy and in care for the bed ridden and walking wounded.

Gratitude gives us a pure motivation to pour our lives into the lives of those seeking God. So we aggressively give, because the Lord has abundantly given to us. He gives us peace, so we extend peace. He gives us more money, so we generously give money. He freely gives forgiveness, so we offer perpetual forgiveness. Gratitude actively gives God the glory.

“This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God” (2 Corinthians 9:12).

What is the depth of my gratitude to God? Is my giving motivated by gratitude to Him?

Related Readings: [Genesis 47:11-12](#); [Psalm 142:7](#); [Philippians 2:25](#); [Titus 3:14](#)

DAY 10 | Thankful for the Ordinary

When he [Jesus] was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him. Luke 24:30-31

The eyes of Christ's two hosts were opened to His presence when they saw His grateful heart. The Holy Spirit revealed the gift of the Son through the expression of gratitude for God's gifts. Yes, we grow in our likeness of Jesus when we thank God for the small things in life. His rising sun that brightens the tops of shaded trees with autumn's yellow leaves. Light rain that hums to sleep a whiny baby. A carpet of green grass for children to run, skip and laugh on. A blanket of snow that calms the soul. Ordinary blessings of God are extraordinary in their scope and significance.

Yes, we are compelled to give thanks to our Heavenly Father for His everyday provision. It may be the moment by moment opportunity to fill our lungs with God's oxygen or the meals He routinely provides to fill our stomach. Ordinary, daily blessings from Jesus give us the privilege to slow down and say thank you. Perhaps gratitude for a spouse's support, a child's love, a parent's laughter or a friend's faith. Neighbors who smile make us smile with genuine thankfulness. Our gratitude for the Lord's ordinary gifts overflow our reservoir of faith. Joy fills our emotional cup.

Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits. Psalm 103:1-2, NKJV

How do you regularly express gratitude to God for your job? What are some ways you can say thank you to your coworkers? Maybe a simple thank you or a written note of appreciation. Offer to be responsible for a friend's tasks, so they can take off a day. Show gratitude with a gift of cash, so an employee can take their spouse to dinner or pay down a school loan. Gratitude goes a long way in helping people face another day. Yes, be available to sit with the sick and serve them.

Lastly, be bold when you break bread to pray a sincere blessing of thanksgiving for the Lord's provision. Mix it up at meal time and ask each person around the table to share one thing they are thankful to God for. Make a list of the Lord's blessings you can refer to when you have a bad day. Look for Christ's gifts in your ordinary, everyday life. Brag on Jesus to others who may need Jesus. Respectfully and humbly, declare what good things God has given you to enjoy today!

Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. Psalm 103:3-5, NKJV

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for the incredible, ordinary gifts You give me every day.

Related Readings: [Deuteronomy 8:3](#); [Nehemiah 12:47](#); [Psalm 68:19](#); [Acts 2:47](#); [Hebrews 3:13](#)

Post/Tweet this today: Gratitude goes a long way to help people face another day.
#thankfulfortheordinary

DAY 11 | Grateful to God

“But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him” (1 Corinthians 2:14).

Gratitude to God is a guarantee for an attitude of humility and happiness. It is hard to be grateful and not be full of joy and contentment. When we reflect on His salvation and grace in Jesus Christ, we are left awestruck that Almighty God would give us freely the gift of His only Son. Indeed, a grateful Christian never gets over the fact of the forgiveness and freedom they have in Christ Jesus. Gratitude gives us the right attitude!

How can we renew our thinking each day to be appreciative, when so many negative thoughts assault our mind? What is a wise process to keep us praising God for His provision? One way is to recount His blessings by writing them out. Take the time to pen what the Lord has done for you, and your sorrow will turn into a smile of satisfaction. Your glow comes back when you remember Christ’s incredible love and acceptance. When was the last time you spent your entire prayer time just praising and thanking God?

“Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness” (Psalm 150:2). Perhaps you praise Him in the morning for life and love. Praise Him midmorning for fulfilling work. Praise Him at the noon hour for health and happiness. Praise Him midday for forgiveness and faith. Praise Him at dinner for family and friends. Praise Him before bed for His Word and the wonder of His grace. Praise God and gratitude will follow.

Your gratitude goes a long way in leading others to be grateful. A grateful life is like a sea of thanksgiving that lifts all boats with hope. Appreciation attracts great people. Your thanksgiving to God for His favor and blessings, and for the incredible people in your life sets you up for success. Gratitude is a self-fulfilling prophecy for peace, joy and love.

“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). Do I regularly express gratitude to God? Who can I honor by showing sincere appreciation and thanksgiving?

Related Readings: [1 Chronicles 16:9](#); [Daniel 4:34](#); [1 Corinthians 1:4](#); [1 Timothy 4:4](#)

DAY 12 | Grateful for Leaders

“We have enjoyed a long period of peace under you, and your foresight has brought about reforms in this nation. Everywhere and in every way, most excellent Felix, we acknowledge this with profound gratitude.” Acts 24:2-3

Leaders appreciate receiving appreciation. Often they experience isolation that comes with their role and responsibilities. A genuine thank you goes a long way in energizing their will to lead. Ungrateful or insensitive followers challenge the faith of a leader's good faith. But those who take the time to express their gratitude to those they follow bring honor and encouragement to their leader. Leaders are not to be worshipped, but thanked.

How do you express gratitude to your boss, pastor, teacher or coach? Do you have a systematic process to thank those who may serve in thankless roles? Perhaps God would have you become the source for fulfilling the prayers of those who labor in the Lord's work. How refreshing and practical it is to buy a meal, clothes or a weekend away for your Pastor and his wife. Your tangible appreciation may make the difference in a leader continuing to fight the good fight. Leaders need the support of other friends in Christ.

“Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.” Hebrews 13:17

Gratitude for the human heart is like gasoline to an automobile's engine. A fellow leader may be out of gas and in need of your sincere appreciation. What if you prayed for a leader in your life once a week for 12 weeks? It could be the President of a nation or the President of your local Parent Teacher's Association. Look for leaders who need a prayer. School principals need a pal. Speak a kind word for they normally hear only negative concerns.

Furthermore, express your gratitude to God for the godly leaders in your life. It may be your wife, husband, mayor, governor, president, business associate or missionary overseas. Pray to the Lord for them to feel His presence and power in their leadership role. Pray they will walk in the humility and wisdom of Jesus. Leaders need to feel the Lord's love and approval. A leader appreciated by the Almighty is positioned to lead with love.

“So the Lord said to Moses, “Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit of leadership, and lay your hand on him. Have him stand before Eleazar the priest and the entire assembly and commission him in their presence.” Numbers 27:18-19

Prayer: Heavenly Father, how can I be grateful for those leaders in my life?

Related Readings: [Acts 11:30](#); [Ephesians 1:15-23](#); [1 Timothy 5:17](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:12](#)

Post/Tweet this today: A leader appreciated by God is empowered to lead with love.

DAY 13 | Remember Thank You

“One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.” Luke 17:15-16

A culture of entitlement is slow to say thank you, but a grateful group is honored to express appreciation. Ungrateful people expect, even demand, good things with no gratitude in return. But grateful men and women are humbled and give God the glory for His blessings. The most gratitude comes from those who least expect the Lord’s lavish love. It is the mercy of God that heals our heart and causes us to exclaim Praise the Lord!

Is it your regular routine to sincerely thank God for His healing power? Do you bow at the feet of Jesus when the body of a friend or family was cured by God’s work through the miracle of modern medicine? Have you celebrated Christ’s blessing of keeping your body whole from a debilitating disease? Humility is a thank you waiting to happen.

Listen to David’s prayer for healing, “Be merciful to me, LORD, for I am faint; O LORD, heal me, for my bones are in agony” (Psalm 6:2). You can pray boldly for your physical healing. Pray depending on God and with great faith ask the Great Physician to bring to bear on your body His healing power. Your Creator understands how to bring wholeness to His creation. It is not a question of if He can, but if He will.

However, whether He heals in this life or in the life to come give Him thanks. “Pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18). Furthermore, gratitude to God expresses gratitude to people. Make it a goal write a thank you note before you cash the check. Look a friend in the eye and thank them for their friendship. Show your gratitude to your server with a generous gratuity. Appreciate others and you invite appreciation into your life and work.

Mostly, thank the Lord Jesus Christ for His death on the cross for your sin and salvation. Jesus came from living with sinners to die for sinners. “The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me” (1 Corinthians 11:23b-24).

Do I thank God often for His incredible gift of grace and forgiveness? Do I thank Him during the bad times as well as the good times? Am I quick to appreciate others?

Related Readings: [Proverbs 3:8](#); [17:22](#); [Romans 14:6](#); [1 Corinthians 15:57](#)

DAY 14 | Grateful Children

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.” 3 John 1:4

Gratitude is a wonderful gift we can give to our children and our children can give to us. It brings overwhelming joy to the heart of a parent when they witness an appreciative child. When they hear “thank you”, “you are welcome” and “how can I help”. It is music to the ears of mom and dad who long for their loved ones to grow into grateful adults.

Thankfulness is a vaccine against selfishness and discontentment. Children and teenagers who understand and apply appreciation are quick to serve others and not demand their needs or wants be met. They take to heart what God expects of His sons and daughters, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others” (Philippians 2:3-4). Gratitude leads to a Christ-like attitude.

So, how can you help your child learn to live a life of thanksgiving and gratitude? What does it take for a teenager to meet the needs of others before addressing their own needs? One thought is to begin early, teaching your child the value of hard work. Assign them chores and then pay them when the job is completed with excellence. Then train them to divide their money into the categories of save, give and spend. When they invest time and energy into a meaningful outcome they are much more appreciative of the money.

Perhaps you accompany them to feed the homeless, care for a family in financial distress or visit those confined to jail. You may decide on a family mission trip overseas. It may be a construction project, evangelism outreach or loving on orphans. Contentment and gratitude will erupt from the heart of your child when they engage people who smile in the face of ugly circumstances. They see first hand that joy comes from Jesus, not stuff.

Therefore, be intentional about modeling appreciation in front of your offspring. Be quick to thank God and others, while slow to complain. Grateful children are attractive and pleasant to be around. Their appreciative attitude will serve them well the rest of their lives.

“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!” (Philippians 2:5-8)
How can I model an attitude of gratitude in front of my children? What can we do as a family to learn appreciation and experience contentment?

Related Readings: [Deuteronomy 4:9-10](#); [Psalm 34:11](#); [Proverbs 22:6](#); [Ephesians 6:4](#)

DAY 15 | Thankful Leaders

“To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.” 2 Timothy 1:2-3

Thank the Lord for past leaders who proclaimed a day of thanksgiving to God for His blessings and provision. Men and women worth following are not afraid to publically profess their dependency on Almighty God. Political correctness is not a part of their persona, because they are more concerned about pleasing Jesus than people.

Am I a leader who models thanksgiving to God for my associates? Are others drawn to my appreciation for them or am I avoided for fear of my ungrateful attitude? Thankfulness is infectious and encouraging. Grateful leaders have the potential for greatness, while those stuck in an unappreciative mindset muddle through mediocrity.

“I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus” (Philemon 1:4-5).

At work and at home it is more than words of affirmation and appreciation—though this is a good start. A community of thankful people creates a culture of gratitude. There is not a day that goes by, that God is not thanked for food to eat, a place to work and air to breathe. Children observe mom and dad, and model what they see and hear. Is your home full of thanksgiving to Jesus and for each other? Is your family infected with grateful hearts?

Perhaps you write a note of thanksgiving to your spouse for his/her unwavering love for you and your children. Pen a poem of gratitude to your children for their unique gift to your family. Thank your parents for their patient love. Email or call a friend and thank them for their loyal friendship. Mostly get on your knees and thank your heavenly Father.

Thankful leaders learn the power of grateful prayers. They approach heaven with sincere supplications full of thanksgiving and praise to God for sending His son Jesus to save them from their sins. Prayers of thanksgiving are light on personal petitions and heavy on gratitude to God for the faith of family and friends. Be a thankful leader and watch Christ grow an army of thankful followers. Grateful leaders show appreciation to those above and below themselves.

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our “God is a consuming fire” (Hebrews 12:28-29).

Am I a thankful leader who inspires gratitude in those I serve and influence?

Related Readings: [Psalm 106:47](#); [Daniel 2:23](#); [1 Timothy 4:4](#); [Revelations 7:12](#)

DAY 16 | Honor God

He who sacrifices thank offerings honors me, and he prepares the way so that I may show him the salvation of God. Psalm 50:23

Honor of God is our obligation as Jesus-followers. It is not an option but an opportunity to afford praise and thanksgiving to the Almighty. The honor of God places the focus of our appreciation on the object of our affection, Jesus. It is way beyond just the mere morsels of language from our lips (Mark 7:6). The honor of God is meant to be a habit of our living. Our life overflows in honor when our attitude of gratitude sets the tone for our actions. It is honorable to God when we are grateful for our jobs and the people with whom we work. We take the time to celebrate birthdays and verbally affirm the character traits of the one being honored. This small scenario of gratitude honors our Savior. It is a celebration of salvation in the life of one of His children. Gratitude honors God. Our worship honors God when our behavior matches our beliefs. This is why we come before Christ in confession and repentance. It is an honoring of the standards He has set with His life and word. It is dishonoring to our Lord to receive Jesus at salvation and then ignore Him until we get to heaven. Our enemies get more attention than this lowly form of ingratitude. We go to God because we need it and He deserves and expects it. The simple act of submission and surrender to Jesus honors Him in heaven and on earth. If the angels bow before Him, how much more should we (Psalm 103:20)? Holy living submits its whole way to divine direction. We honor heaven when we ask God for guidance.

It is out of our honoring of God and others that He shows us the way. Honor is a highway to heaven (Philippians 3:20). It is in our acts of honor that we hear the voice of the one we are honoring. Honoring improves our hearing. Honoring brings clarity. It is when we honor God and people above ourselves that we gain perspective (Romans 12:9-10). A self-honoring person sucks the life out of a situation, while someone who offers honor gives life. It honors others when we serve them. It honors others when we are kind. It honors others when we involve them in the decision-making process. It honors others when we invite them to special occasions like showers, weddings, funerals, and anniversary parties. It honors others when we celebrate what is important to them. Honor helps others understand.

Furthermore, honor God with your body (I Corinthians 6:20). Our body is a reflection of God. It is His and He expects it to be in its best condition. When we care for our body we care for Christ. It honors Him. It is also unacceptable to the Almighty when we abuse our body. When we abuse our body we abuse Christ. Therefore, honor Him in your body. Dress so you draw attention to your inner beauty. This honors Him.

Lastly, God honors those who honor Him (1 Samuel 2:30). What an honor it is to be honored by God. He honors us with His intimacy. He honors us with responsibilities and success. He honors us with wisdom. He honors us with blessings undeserved. He honors us with friends and family. He honors us with health and healing. He honors us by calling us His own. Our honor invites His honor. By God's grace, do the honorable thing. Honor prepares His way.

Post/Tweet this today: Holy living submits its whole way to divine direction. We honor God when we ask for guidance. #honor

DAY 17 | A Greater Forgiveness

Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more? Luke 7:41-42

There is a greater forgiveness that accompanies greater sins. The generous grace of God covers the multiple sins of an adult reprobate, as fully as He forgives a sinful child raised in church. However, the Lord's greater forgiveness invites a greater gratitude. Forgiveness that is fresh on the mind thinks of ways to show love and appreciation. A grateful Christ follower rushes to give good, even expensive gifts to God. Public appreciation flows from a personal transformation.

Those who become too familiar with their faith can forget the generous grace of God. One sin condemns us to hell, but one act of faith in Jesus delivers us to heaven, now and forevermore. Glory to God; whether it's our extravagant sins or our modest sins we are forgiven by the lavish love of the Lord! Therefore, there is no condemnation for those of us who are in Christ Jesus. Yes, our gratitude toward God keeps the greater forgiveness of God at the forefront of our faith.

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:1-2

Moreover, make a big deal out of your forgiveness from your Heavenly Father. Celebrate your conversion by publicly illustrating your life change with baptism. Come out of the closet for Christ and He will bless your boldness. He died publicly for your sins, so you could publicly confess your sins. Encourage those in your community who have recently left much of the world's trappings behind to follow Jesus. Invite them to study the Bible and serve with you.

Gratitude to God is unashamed to show love for God. Perhaps you share something expensive with someone who loves the Lord and in the process you honor the Lord. You give back to Jesus, not to pay back Jesus, but to worship Him, so others might follow Him. Gifts to God are an opportunity to get people to God. Yes, your love for the Lord leads those you influence to love the Lord. Be generous with those around you, so they'll desire intimacy with your generous God!

But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did. 1 John 2:5-6

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for Your greater forgiveness that motivates my greater love!

Related Readings: [Jonah 2:9](#); [Romans 6:4](#); [Ephesians 2:8-9](#); [Philemon 1:18-19](#); [1 John 2:15-17](#)

DAY 18 | Extend Kindness

“Don’t be afraid,’ David said to him, ‘for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table.’” 2 Samuel 9:7

Kindness is a “killer application” for the Christian. It is “killer” in the good sense of the word. Kindness kills fear and replaces it with hope. It kills insecurity and replaces it with security. It kills rejection and replaces it with acceptance. It kills pride and replaces it with humility. Kindness kills the bad so that the good can have room to grow. Like the effect of a powerful herbicide on unwanted weeds, kindness cuts to the root of sin and injects it with grace and love.

Indeed, the kindness you extend to others springs from a variety of motivations. As a follower of Jesus, what compels you the most is the gargantuan kindness that He has bestowed on you. Undeserving, you were captured by the kindness of God. He captured your mind and in the process flooded it with kind thoughts toward others, even your adversaries. He captured your mouth and filled it with kind words of affirmation and encouragement, extending to those thirsting for verbal kindness. He captured your behavior and converted it to be others centered, so now you are guilty of random acts of kindness.

Everything about you has the potential to exude kindness, because God is and has been kind to you. You can count on the kindness of God leading you and others to repentance. Kill others with kindness, and watch God bring them alive. It is the uncanny and counterintuitive nature of kindness. We have the capacity to be kind, because we have received His mercy as a “gift in kind.”

Gratitude to God for His kindness is a sterling reason for us to extend kindness to others. However, gratitude also results from our horizontal relationships. You feel compelled to be kind to a family member or a friend, because of the kindness they extended to your child or your spouse. You can’t help it. Kindness and gratitude are first cousins. When you are grateful, you search for ways to extend kindness to people. It may be a graduation gift, your presence at a wedding, or a handwritten thank-you note. You want to support those who support you and those whom you love.

Kindness has this powerful effect on people: It makes them care. It is the gift that keeps on giving. It seems you cannot pay forward enough with kindness. No one has ever complained of receiving too much kindness. You cannot overdose anyone on kindness. On the contrary, it is healing and wholesome. Kindness is a picture of Christ. It is not only godly, it is God-like. Therefore, diffuse the rumblings of harsh words and replace them with kind ones.

Otherwise, you may say the right words but in an unkind way and defeat your purpose of being open and honest. People cannot hear what you say if how you say it is unkind. A kind delivery of hard words has a much higher probability of acceptance. Kindness comes from a grateful and prayerful heart that is focused on Christ. You cannot help but be kind when you are captured by divine kindness. Extend the quality of kindness, which has been extended to you. For Christ’s sake, we can be kind to one another. The kindness of God invites an extended stay. This is the kind of kindness we all desire and deserve in Him.

DAY 19 | Thankful Prayers

“We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers.” 1 Thessalonians 1:2

Prayers of thanksgiving bring a smile to the face of God. He delights in hearing His children express to heaven their gratitude for their sisters and brothers on earth. Jesus expects His followers to not just tolerate one another, but to celebrate each other’s uniqueness. A prayer of thanksgiving for another needy soul grows a heart of love for souls. Consistent prayers of gratitude gets God’s attention and moves His heart to bless, forgive and love.

We all need prayer; prayer for wisdom, prayer for solutions, prayer for healing, prayer for forgiveness, prayer for reconciliation, prayer for salvation, prayer for God’s will, prayer for strength, prayer for faith, prayer for courage, prayer for work and prayer for patience. How grateful we soon become, when we reflect on friends who lift us to the Lord with passionate petitions. We thank God for those precious souls who pray for our soul care.

“We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing.” 2 Thessalonians 1:3

Do you thank Christ regularly for those whose faith is on fire? Are you grateful to God for the grace of God that is ever growing in your community of faith? Those who boldly bear a beautiful banner for Jesus need our serious prayer support. The enemy rages against the righteous who are engaged in eternal issues: justice for the poor, education for the ignorant, church planting, job training, discipleship and food for the hungry.

Your grateful prayers to God garner good will for those executing God’s will. Thank Him for their trust that perseveres through persecution. Thank Jesus for those who share Jesus with words and deeds. Thank your heavenly Father for the fathers and mothers who model compassion, love, leadership and the nurturing of their children. Thank Him for single adults who hope in Christ and who serve unselfishly in His name. Gratitude prays!

“I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus.” Philemon 1:4-5

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for the passionate prayers of Your people.

Related Readings: [Nehemiah 11:17](#); [Philippians 4:6](#); [Colossians 1:3](#); [1 Timothy 2:1](#)

DAY 20 | Morning Preparation

“In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.” Psalm 5:3

Start the day with God. This is your best preparation. This is the best part of the day because it is the beginning of the day. Appointments have yet to assault your calendar. Interruptions are blocked from your schedule. Each day is a new day full of opportunity, challenges and problems.

Because each day is unique, we need a daily dose of God. We need His wisdom, His forgiveness and His perspective. Just as our body needs exercising and bathing, so our mind, soul and heart need God’s cleansing and renewal. Time with God feeds our soul like a nice meal nourishes our body. A malnourished soul will lead to a sick life. You can fast from God, but this is not a healthy fast.

Your fasting from God may be as result of moving too quickly. Slow down your pace or He may slow it down for you. Assuming you have rested well the night before, your mind and body are the most receptive in the morning. Therefore, it makes sense to use this pliable time of the day to recalibrate with God. First in, first out is a good description of what happens in the morning. If the worries of the world consume our beginning of the day, then worry will come out first during the day. If trust in God fills our day’s beginning, then trust will come out first during the day.

Jesus modeled this for us as He rose before the day began to spend time quietly with His heavenly Father. You may need to find a quiet spot with the fewest distractions so that you can listen intently to your heavenly Father. Wake up with God while the world sleeps. Then, when the world awakes, you can greet it with grace and truth.

Your time with God need not be complicated. Converse just as you do daily with certain friends; keep the dialogue honest and open. God already knows our heart, but we forget and we need a reminder. My heart deceives me, but God cuts through the deception and gets to the core of the matter. My anger may cause me to sin by not letting go of a person or a situation. Sometimes it is hard to let go and trust God with the matter.

You cannot blame another for your bad attitude; this is between you and God. Ask Him to do an attitude check and to fill your “gratitude tank” before you run out of gas. If gratitude is not motivating your living, you will burn through energy like dried out firewood on a blistering cold winter night. Without daily doses of divine gratitude, your enthusiasm will be sucked away like smoke up a chimney. The morning is an ideal time to lay our requests before our heavenly Father.

These can be requests that flow from the desires of our heart. When you walk close with God, the desires of your heart will align more closely with His wishes for your life. This is reassuring. As you walk with Jesus each day, ask Him by faith for a pure heart. Request from Him the right spouse and a new career opportunity in His timing. Look to Him for courage to walk away from a relationship or a deal, or request that same courage from Him to accept a new challenge—one that forces you out of your comfort zone. Ask Him for the trust and the patience to accept His timing with all of the issues that are crowding your mind. There is no better way to start your day than with God!

DAY 21 | Always be Thankful

Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
Ephesians 5:20

Gratitude to God is the language of those who love the Lord. Because they love the Lord, they trust the Lord. Because they trust the Lord, they thank the Lord...always. Thankfulness to our Heavenly Father goes directly to His heart. Like a valuable package sent overnight express, gratitude reaches God immediately and unimpeded. The Lord longs to hear prayers of thanksgiving from His children who totally trust in Him. Yes, trust gives thanks for everything.

Are you able, by the Holy Spirit's power to offer thanks quickly and continually after you enter into an adverse situation? It's much easier to thank the Lord for the good things that come our way, but its more difficult to be grateful when things seem unfair. Thus, we immediately shift our thinking to thankfulness when our flesh wants to flirt with grumbling. The quicker we close the gap from initial offense to forgiveness and thanks, the quicker we resume our walk in the Spirit.

Settle matters quickly with your adversary. Matthew 5:25

When your feelings are hurt, thank God for the hurt Christ went through to heal your heart. When you are passed over for a promotion, thank God for Christ's Passover for your sin. When you see evil interrupt your world, thank God for sending His righteous son to redeem the world. When a child is disobedient, thank God for Christ Jesus who learned obedience through His suffering. Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered. Hebrews 5:8

Your capacity for thankfulness directly relates to your capacity for joy. A happy heart is a grateful heart. Ultimately find joy in Jesus and in thanksgiving to the Lord for your eternal home in heaven. Furthermore, thank God for your enemy who causes you to engage Christ in prayer for your adversary. Satan steams when he sees your praise to God in the middle of experiencing a serious problem. A mark of mature faith is an ever grateful heart. Yes, learn to thank the Lord for everything and you will grow to not need anything but Him. Trust in God always thanks God!

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. 1 Timothy 1:12

Prayer: Heavenly Father, grow my trust to thank you for everything in Jesus name.

Related Readings: [1 Chronicles 23:30](#) [Daniel 2:23](#); [1Thessalonians 2:13](#); [2 Thessalonians 2:13](#)

Post/Tweet today: Learn to thank the Lord for everything and you will grow to not need anything but Him. #alwaysbethankful