

# A Thanksgiving Wish

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In a year that has produced a lot of anxiety we need to celebrate Thanksgiving more than ever. Our Father knew that thankfulness is an elixir for anxiety. Gratitude drives out fear. It is good for us on so many levels.

There is a phrase in the Old Testament that is often associated with giving thanks. It is "His love endures forever." Let me show it to you:

1 Chron.16: 34 **Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.**

2 Chron.5: 13 The trumpeters and musicians joined in unison to give praise and thanks to the LORD. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, the singers raised their voices in praise to the LORD and sang: "**He is good; his love endures forever.**" Then the temple of the LORD was filled with the cloud,

2 Chron.7:3, 3 When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the glory of the LORD above the temple, they knelt on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD, saying, "**He is good; his love endures forever.**"

Then we see this variation:

2 Chron.20: 21 After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: "**Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever.**"

Psa.106:1 1 Praise the LORD. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Then we see the theme of entering with thanksgiving

Psa.110:4, 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

Psa.118: 19 Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.

## Psalm 107 Gives an Interesting Twist to Thanksgiving:

Psa.107:8 8 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, Repeated in verse 15, 21. & 31.

## Psalm 136 shows us this:

Psa.136: 2 Give thanks to the **God of gods**. His love endures forever.

Psa.136: 3 Give thanks to **the Lord of lords**: His love endures forever.

Psa.136: 26 Give thanks to the **God of heaven**. His love endures forever.

## Regularity of Thanks:

Daniel 6: 10 Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

## Before Meals:

Matt.14: 19 And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people.

Matt.15: 36 Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, and when he had given thanks, he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and they in turn to the people.

Matt.26: 26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

## Futility Comes Without Thanksgiving

Rom.1: 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.

## Expressions of Thanks Regarding Our Spiritual Blessings

Rom.6:17 **But thanks be to God** that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance.

Rom.7: 25 **Thanks be to God**, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

1 Cor.15: 57 **But thanks be to God!** He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Cor.2:14 14 **But thanks be to God**, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere.

#### A Thanksgiving Day Prayer

Lord, so oftentimes, as any other day  
When we sit down to our meal and pray  
We hurry along and make fast the blessing  
Thanks, amen. Now please pass the dressing  
We're slaves to the olfactory overload  
We must rush our prayer before the food gets cold  
But Lord, I'd like to take a few minutes more  
To really give thanks to what I'm thankful for  
For my family, my health, a nice soft bed  
My friends, my freedom, a roof over my head  
I'm thankful right now to be surrounded by those  
Whose lives touch me more than they'll ever possibly know  
Thankful Lord, that You've blessed me beyond measure  
Thankful that in my heart lives life's greatest treasure  
That You, dear Jesus, reside in that place  
And I'm ever so grateful for Your unending grace  
So please, heavenly Father, bless this food You've provided  
And bless each and every person invited  
Amen!

—Scott Wesemann