

Giving Of Thanks

by Kenneth E. Hagin



We celebrate a particular day we call "Thanksgiving" because the Pilgrims set aside a day to give thanks unto God for the bountiful crops they'd had that year. And we certainly do thank God for material blessings. But we thank God most of all for spiritual blessings—and for those things the Word tells us to give thanks for.

The Bible teaches thanksgiving, not just one day a year but "always." Every day is thanksgiving time with me. I wake up in the morning giving thanks. And glory to God, I go to bed at night giving thanks. I walk around in the daytime giving thanks. I drive my car down the street giving thanks. Thanking Him for His mercy. Thanking Him for His grace. Thanking Him for His bountiful provisions. Thanking Him for His great plan of redemption.

I learned long ago when you live like that and walk like that, there are a lot of things you don't even have to pray for—individually, I mean. Things just seem to fall in place.

Our son and daughter are both grown and married, but when they were children, very seldom were they even attacked in body. But when they were, I can remember specific times that I'd lay my hand upon their fevered brows and just begin to thank God. I wasn't thanking Him because they were sick and had a fever; I was thanking God for His provision of healing! I was thanking God for another time to prove the Word of God is true. But before I'd get to pray—while my hand was still on the brow—the fever would leave. I'd never get to pray about it!

PSALM 95:2

2 Let us come before his presence WITH THANKSGIVING . . .

I don't know of a better way to enter into the presence of God than with thanksgiving!

COLOSSIANS 2:7

7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein WITH THANKSGIVING.

Rooted and builded in Him! Established in the faith!

Abounding therein with thanksgiving!

EPHESIANS 5:18-20

18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT;

19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

20 GIVING THANKS ALWAYS for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Here the Bible gives the characteristics of the Spirit-filled life. And one is *giving thanks unto the Father*! If you stay filled with the Spirit, you'll automatically do that. There's a song in your heart. If you lose that song and that spirit of thanksgiving, you simply need to get down before God and be renewed in spirit.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:14-17

14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

16 Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at THY GIVING OF THANKS, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?

17 FOR THOU VERILY GIVEST THANKS WELL, but the other is not edified.

Giving thanks in other tongues is one of the best ways to give thanks. For in doing so, "*thou verily givest thanks well.*" We give thanks both ways—in the spirit, or in tongues; and with the understanding. Paul said that in the presence of someone who is "unlearned" in spiritual things, it would be better to praise God in your language so they could understand. However, if there are no "unlearned" people present, it would be all right to give thanks, to praise God, to worship God in the supernatural language because they'd know what you were doing.

I thank God for all His blessings. I thank God for everything that goes along with the baptism of the Holy Ghost—and I realize there's more to it than speaking with tongues—but speaking and praying with other tongues has been the greatest boon to my own individual life than anything else that's happened in over 40 years. The greatest miracles I've ever seen, the greatest ways in

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which the Lord has used me, have been after a season of praying in other tongues. His Word says, "*He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself*" (1 Cor. 14:4). You just can't edify others until you get edified yourself. Edified means built up spiritually. *Thank God for this means of spiritual edification!*

1 TIMOTHY 2:1,2

- 1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and GIVING OF THANKS, be made for all men;
- 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority . . .

We don't have many ruling kings today, but this simply means those who head up the nation and are in authority. We're to make supplications, prayers, intercessions, and *giving of thanks* for them. Why? That we may lead a quiet and peaceable life. Then it goes on to say, "*For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour . . .*" (v. 3). You're always right to pray and to give thanks.

Giving Thanks: An Act of Faith

PHILIPPIANS 4:6

- 6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication WITH THANKSGIVING let your requests be made known unto God.

Another translation says, "In nothing be anxious . . ." Still another reads, "Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything . . ." (*Amplified*). Well, if you're not to fret and worry about anything, what are you to do? You're to do what the Bible says to do. In everything by prayer and supplication *with thanksgiving*, let your requests be made known to God!

Notice that the thanksgiving follows the praying. Why? **You're giving thanks in advance by faith for the answer because He promised to hear and answer prayer.** There's no doubt about it. He said, "Call unto me and I will answer thee." I believe He'll do it! It is an act of faith to give thanksgiving with your requests. You're expecting the answer and thanking God in advance for it!

Continue to praise God even in the face of adverse circumstances. Give praise to Him because He hears and answers prayer. Some people pray, then look to see if

anything happened. If nothing has happened, they say, "Just as I expected." But when you really believe God, you'll continue to thank Him for the answer.

I remember a dear Baptist woman who came into one of our healing lines. She had a malignant growth, a purplish-blue looking thing like a miniature eggplant growing on her face. (Specialists wouldn't remove it. They said it was a fast-developing malignancy and if they cut it, it would spread. They gave her a year or two if they left it alone, but less than six months if they tried to remove it.) I laid hands upon her. You could still see the growth. It hadn't changed a bit. I asked her if she'd do something and she agreed.

I said, "Look at your watch and see what time it is."

It was 9:40. Then I asked her to note the day—Monday. And the date—June 6, 1950.

"All right," I said, "from this moment on, regardless of how that looks or feels, when you go to bed at night, if you happen to wake in the nighttime, when you get up in the mornings, and any time you think of it, say, 'Thank God for my healing. I praise God because I received my healing at 9:40 p.m., Monday, June 6, 1950.' Do that for ten days."

On the tenth day, the pastor and I were discussing some Scriptures in the parsonage when the phone rang. A woman's voice sounded as if she was in hysterics. The pastor said, "Sister, I can't understand a thing you're saying." Finally she quieted down enough to tell him what had happened. He told me.

He said, "It's that Baptist woman you ministered to ten days ago. About ten minutes ago she was mopping the bathroom and that growth fell off her face in the floor. She looked in the mirror and where that thing came out it looked like brand new skin. She put the growth in a jar of alcohol and she's going to bring it to church tonight."

Praise God. But if she had waited for something to be manifested before she began to praise God, in her case, it would probably never have happened. Anybody can praise God after it happens. After the walls of Jericho had fallen, anybody could have praised God. It doesn't take faith to do that—but it takes faith to praise God while the walls are still up!

Thank God for answered prayer!

Redemption

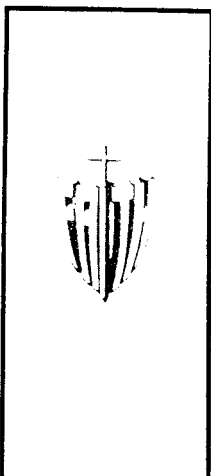
COLOSSIANS 1:12-14

- 12 GIVING THANKS unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light;
- 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son;
- 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood . . .

This is the main one I wanted to get to. The Spirit of God, through the apostle Paul, said for us to give thanks. Well, it's good to know we're to give thanks, but what is it we are to give thanks for? He tells us specifically . . .

"*Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet . . .*" Another translation says, "which has made us able." The Father has made us able to do something.

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THE WORD OF FAITH published monthly by Rhema Bible Church, AKA, Kenneth Hagin Ministries, a non-profit corporation. Editorial offices: 1025 W. Kenosha, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. **SEND ALL U.S. MAIL TO: THE WORD OF FAITH, P.O. BOX 50126, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74150 and in Canada, Box 335 Islington (Toronto), Ontario, M9A 4X3.** Printed in U.S.A. USPS 953-680

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Graphic Design Deaven Butler, Brenda Steen,
Dana Pennie

Postmaster: Please send Form 3579 to The Word of Faith, P.O. Box 50126, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74150. Second class postage paid at Broken Arrow, Oklahoma and additional mailing offices. The Word of Faith has no subscription or newsstand price and is supported through contributions from readers worldwide. All gifts to this ministry are tax deductible.

VOLUME XII Number 11

MEMBER **epa** EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION

"... to be partakers" He has made us able to be partakers! Partakers of what?

"... of the inheritance of the saints in light." Most Christians don't know they're to partake of anything—except grumbling, griping, fussing, and fuming. But thank God, we are partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. What is the inheritance? The next two verses give us some light concerning this inheritance.

"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness" The power of darkness is Satan and Satan's kingdom. The Greek word translated "power" means "authority."

I am delivered from the authority of Satan. There's no use in being afraid of the devil anymore. Many people are devil-conscious, but I lost interest in him years ago when I found out Jesus had already defeated him. That He did it for me! He did it in my place! It's all marked down to my credit as though I were the one who did it! I've never been afraid of the devil since I found this out!

One translation says, "Giving thanks unto the Father . . . who has taken us out from under the dominion and control of darkness." To hear some Christians talk you'd think the devil is bigger than God, greater than God, and has more power than God. But could anyone seriously think the devil is to have dominion and control over the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ? Well, if he's not to have dominion and control over the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, then he cannot have dominion or control over the least saint! We're in the very body of Christ. Christ is the head of this new creation the Church; we are the body. Christ is to dominate. He is to rule us. Not Satan.

How then does Satan rule some Christians?

And remember most people think of his dominating people in terms of committing wrong and outward sins. But Satan is the author of sickness and disease, not God. There's no sickness and disease in heaven. God doesn't put sickness on people. He couldn't; He doesn't have any. Sickness is corruption, and God is an incorruptible Being. Sickness doesn't come from heaven; there's none up there. Satan is the author of sickness and disease.

The Bible is progressive revelation. You can't get the full light and truth in the old covenant, the Old Testament. Get over into the New and walk in the light that belongs to us.

The New Testament says concerning the ministry of Jesus that He "*went about doing good and healing*" (Acts 10:38). Healing is doing good!

That verse goes on to say, "*doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil . . .*" It calls sickness satanic oppression.

In Luke we read where a woman came into the synagogue whose body was bound together and she could in no wise lift herself up. The ruler of the synagogue became angry because Jesus healed the woman on the sabbath. Then Jesus said, "*Ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?*" (Luke 13:16). Her body was bound with a spirit of

infirmity (v. 11). But the Bible is clear it was Satan that did it—not God!

The Bible says that Jesus came, "*that he might destroy the works of the devil*" (1 John 3:8). Among the works of the devil Jesus destroyed were sickness and disease. We need to be free from the fear of sickness and disease just like we're free from the fear of sin.

Back to our question: How then does Satan rule Christians? He does it through their lack of knowledge of their redemption and their redemptive rights. Through their lack of knowledge of their inheritance. They're like the woman in a story Charles Spurgeon told.

He visited an elderly woman of his congregation who was quite ill and expected to die. She lived in dire poverty in a little tin shack down by the railroad tracks. Mr. Spurgeon noticed a document hanging on the wall of the shack. He removed it from the wall and looked at it closely. Then he asked if he could take it with him—promising to have it back within a day or two. He took it to authorities.

It seems that many years past this woman had been a maid in the home of some of the English royalty. Before the lady (that was her title) of the house died, she handed this piece of paper to her loyal maid. The maid cherished it greatly for the dear lady of royalty had given it to her. She kept it through the years—in a frame hanging on her wall. She couldn't read. She didn't know what it said.

When Mr. Spurgeon took it to the proper authorities they said, "We've been looking for this for years." The lady had willed to her servant not a shack, but a home—and money to keep her for the rest of her life. She could have been living in a virtual mansion, well taken care of. And in her own possession was the document which attested to that fact.

Many dear Christians hold right in their hands, or have hanging on their walls, verses of Scripture which if they'd really believe them and put them into practice, would change their lives. They have a Bible on their bedside table. Yet Satan is holding them in poverty and sickness. All the while they're crying and praying that God will do something. And He can't because He's already done it!

"Who ***hath*** delivered us from the power of darkness, and ***hath*** translated us into the kingdom of his dear

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