

November 28, 2010

Thanksgiving – Being Thankful

Having a Grateful Heart Worshiping the Lord

Pastor Charles Mendenhall

We cannot forget all that God has done for us and traditionally that is what we do this time of year, but we must develop a grateful heart year round.

Psalm 150:6

⁶ Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.

We are to honor the Lord with praise and worship. Honor Him with the sacrifice of praise, and giving Him honor and glory.

Pastor repeated twice and remind, *“Prayer without thanksgiving or praise or a grateful heart is nothing more than the whine of a beggar.”*

Philippians 4:6 (King James Version)

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

We are quick to pray, and that is a good thing, but when we are praying in faith we have a grateful heart and we are thanking Him that He is moving on behalf of the petition that is offered up to Him.

Prayer goes with thanksgiving and thanksgiving goes with prayer.

Prayer and praise go together. It's going to enable someone to begin to rise up in faith and believe what you have been asking God for is going to come to pass and when we get into the area of thanksgiving it changes our focus from the adversity of circumstances over into the goodness and bigness of God, and the more you focus on that the less we are going to focus on the circumstances and you will begin to develop a grateful heart.

“Prayer without thanksgiving or praise is nothing more than the whine of a beggar.”

Pastor reminds that we are not beggars in this life just barely making it through, God has put His approval, His blessing on us by and through His son Jesus Christ and Jesus has bore the price for ALL that we would not have to bear that we could have victory

through Jesus Christ. When we begin to realize who we are in Jesus, and what He has done for us it is much easier to develop a grateful heart or attitude of thanksgiving.

Philippians 4:7 (King James Version)

⁷And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Pastor gave an example from the New Testament church in the life of Paul where prayer and praise were mixed together and combined for the outward effects or the working of God in releasing the powerful working of God in a challenging situation. Paul and Silas were ministering the Word of God and there was a woman that began to follow them and try to interfere with their ministering. They continued to put up with her. After some time the boldness and anointing of God came upon Paul and he commanded the evil spirit to come out of the woman that was tormenting her and hindering the ministering. The woman was delivered and totally changed. The people who were controlling the woman were upset and they brought Paul and Silas in saying that they were going against their tradition, what they believed. Paul and Silas were openly beaten, put in stocks and imprisoned.

Acts 16:24-25 (King James Version)

²⁴Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.

²⁵And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

Paul and Silas were in the midnight hour, the midnight hour of a crisis and what did they do? They prayed and sang praises unto God. Sometimes in the midnight hour of our crisis we would have a tendency to give up. The attitude and principle should be that we pray and then sing/give praises unto the Lord, even in the midnight hour.

Praise mixed with prayer begins to release the supernatural ability of God in the situation where deliverance would be manifested on the behalf of Paul and Silas.

Acts 16:26 (King James Version)

²⁶And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

When they began to pray and praise in the midnight hour of their life God's ability and power came into the prison and shook the foundations of it and they were loosed, released, set free.

There is something about when God's people worship and praise Him unashamedly, that God moves unashamedly on their behalf and there isn't any adverse circumstances that can hold you down or keep you from the glory of God, the miraculous power of God working in your life when you begin to give to give thanksgiving unto Him. We have much to be thankful for!

We cannot focus on the negative. Prayer without praise is the whine of the beggar. We need to learn to develop the habit of giving thanksgiving in troubled times or adversity it opens the doors of heaven to come into your presence, your situation and change it around. We are to develop and learn to give thanksgiving and praise after we pray. That is what faith is all about. We pray and then we thank God for the answer even before we see it. The bible teaches us to do so.

Pastor gave the account of the 10 lepers.

Luke 17:11-19 (King James Version)

¹¹And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.

¹²And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:

¹³And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.

¹⁴And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

¹⁵And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,

¹⁶And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?

¹⁸There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

¹⁹And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

There is something about a thankful heart that causes us to be whole. We as Christian people serve a great God and we must develop thankfulness in our hearts. Prayer without thanksgiving is a whine unto a beggar.

Pastor gave the account of Jonah and of how the big fish represents the grace and mercy of God. God always provides a time period for you and I to make right choices. He just didn't destroy Jonah He gave him the opportunity to make a right choice.

Jonah 2:7-10 (King James Version)

⁷When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.

⁸They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.

⁹But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.

¹⁰And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

Deliverance came unto Jonah when he began to give thanksgiving unto the Lord and that he would pay his vows or do what God asked him to do. Jonah prayed then gave thanksgiving. He didn't focus on his circumstances or his predicament he began to thanksgiving unto the Lord and that is when deliverance came on his behalf.

Prayer without thanksgiving is nothing more than the whine unto a beggar, and reminding us how difficult and how bad the situation is.

Psalm 67:5-7 (King James Version)

⁵Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.

⁶Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us.

⁷God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

God will bless us after His people praise Him; after God's people worship Him. It opens the door for God's favor to come into our lives and grace us with the blessings of God.