

A Believer's Most Powerful Weapon AND HOW TO USE IT

The Fall from Thanksgiving and the Hope of its Return

The fall from “thanks living” began with Adam and Eve.

- Our spiritual ancestors were discontent despite their perfect surroundings and their unbroken fellowship with one another and with their heavenly Father.
- They fell for the deceit of the enemy who told them that our good Father was holding something back from them.
- How do people today verbalize their discontent?

Thanklessness leads to further depravity, a decline into a dark place.

- “They became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.” (Romans 1:20-21)

But as new creations in Christ, we have the hope of the return of “thanks living.” As we are filled by the Spirit and live by the Spirit, thanksgiving is its by product (Ephesians 5:18-20).

- 1. We have the hope of the return of thanksgiving as we stay awake to the wonder of God’s world** (Romans 1:20) as every preschooler does!
- 2. We have the hope of thanksgiving’s return as we practice appreciation.**
 - Paul wrote Philippians 4:9 in the context of prayer and taking our thoughts captive. “The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things.”
 - Practice makes permanent and builds new pathways in our brain. So, our default button is thanksgiving in every situation.
 - As we dwell on the things that are good, right, true, lovely, and of good report, we dive deeper and take notice of the details surrounding them. We marinate in the good gifts of God.
 - **We practice thanksgiving by also bringing the sacrifice of thanksgiving.**

- “To bring the sacrifice of thanksgiving means to sacrifice our understanding of what is beneficial for me and thank God for everything because He is benevolent. Anything that makes me need God is ultimately a blessing.” Nancy DeMoss Wohlgemuth

3. Lastly, we have the hope of thanksgiving’s return as we take hold of the benefits of thanksgiving.

- **Joy is dependent on thanksgiving.**
 - At the last supper, Jesus took the bread and gave thanks. From the word in Greek “Eucharisteo,” the word “chara” joy is derived from “charis” grace. Joy is grace recognized through our thanksgiving.
- **Peace is dependent upon thanksgiving (Phil. 4:6-7).**
 - “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with **thanksgiving** let your requests be made known to God. And the **peace** of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”
 - Stuart Briscoe says this word peace in Greek is better translated into contemporary English as “flourishing.” The Blue Letter Bible calls it the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ and fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is. And where is that peace found? As we make our requests known to God with thanksgiving!