

Thankfulness

2 Corinthians 9:15 & Isaiah 7:10-14

**“Thanks be to God for his
indescribable gift!”**

(2 Corinthians 9:15)

Thankfulness & Christmas

Thankfulness

- **God**
- **Self**
- **Others**

“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Colossians 3:15-17)

“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

(1 Thessalonians 5:18)

“The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me...” (Psalm 50:23)

Thankfulness & God

- 1. It acknowledges the grace of God at work in our lives and signifies our trust in God.**

“In the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, son of Uzziah, king of Judah, Rezin the king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah the king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to wage war against it, but could not yet mount an attack against it.

When the house of David was told, “Syria is in league with Ephraim,” the heart of Ahaz and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind.”
(Isaiah 7:1-2)

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” (7:10-11)

Offer from the Lord that Ahaz
might respond in faith

But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? (7:12-13)

Ahaz’s refusal to trust God

Sign from the Lord

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” (7:14)

**“All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:
“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”
(which means, God with us).”
(Matthew in 1:23)**

**The sign summons us to believe in
the God who is with us.**

- When we leave God out of the equation of our lives and planning because of fear, we are likely to find ourselves in a far worse fear.**

Thankfulness & Self

2. Frees us from pride and envy.

- **Proud people do not say thanks.**
- **Sense of entitlement**

- **Thankfulness works against pride because it is grounded in the truth that we need others.**
- **We are not self-sufficient.**

- Thankfulness is the door to happiness.**
- When you are thankful for what you have, you are not consumed with wanting something different or something more.**

3. Precious gift to others.

Thankfulness & Others

5 Ways To Do Less And Give More This Holiday Season

Start with gratitude

You can do a lot to trim your holiday to-do list, but there is just a lot to get done. No escaping it. Before you dive into your day, spend a few minutes thinking about what you are grateful for, all those people you care enough about to find gifts for, the anticipation of seeing someone you miss, and having warm memories of holiday traditions.

5 Ways To Do Less And Give More This Holiday Season

Starting your day with gratitude will make you happier and more productive. You'll be in better spirits and get more of your holiday to-dos done. And if you take a minute to express gratitude to someone else—perhaps with just a simple but genuine “thank you” while buying gifts—you'll be giving someone a pretty awesome gift without having to wrap it.

“Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!”

(2 Corinthians 9:15)

– The fruit of thankfulness is giving.

What is the motivation for God's people to give cheerfully and generously?

– **The answer always begins with Christmas.**

You cannot love without giving.

Thankfulness

- **Trust in God**
- **Frees us from pride and envy**
- **Precious gift to others**