

## A Thankful Attitude is a Heaven or Hell Issue

Psalms 30:1-5 AMP

**A thankful attitude is a Heaven or hell issue.**

- It has been said by John Kralik, in his book, A Simple Act of Gratitude, “Until you learn to be grateful for the things you have, you will not receive the things you want.”
  - So if I’m not grateful for Vyon Rogers, my wife, I will not receive the things I want from her.
  - If I’m not grateful of the love, sacrifice my family and leaders give me now, I will always wrestle with being dissatisfied and discontentment with relational love towards them!
- Teddy Roosevelt said, “Unthankfulness is the thief of joy.” So when you lose joy, you lose strength. When you lose strength, you allow your mouth, your feelings, and conduct to do things you thought you’d never do.
- So a thankful attitude is a Heaven or hell issue.
- Attorney John Kralik learned this the hard way.
  - His life was a disaster.
  - He became broke.
  - He became overweight and depressed about it.
  - He was going through a divorce.
  - He couldn’t afford to pay his employees as an attorney.
  - He was living in an apartment in Los Angeles with no air conditioning.

**So, John Kralik had an epiphany while hiking in the hills of L.A.**

- He decided to set a goal to write one thank you note each day for a year to people he engaged with. He wanted to find reasons to be thankful and grateful every single day.
- Later in that year, John Kralik experienced a great turnaround financially, emotionally, and physically in his life.

A study by Dr. Emmon’s and Michael McCollough showed 3 groups through an observation on thankfulness and gratitude:

1. The first group kept a diary of events for 24 hours without being told what to specifically write. Neither good nor bad.
2. The second group was told to record their unpleasant experiences.
3. The third group was told to specifically record and make a list of things for which they were grateful for.

- The results of the study indicated that daily gratitude exercises results in higher reported levels of alertness, enthusiasm, determination, optimism, and energy.
- They experienced less depression and stress and were more likely to help others, exercise more regularly, and made greater progress toward achieving personal goals.

Dr. Emmons has been studying gratitude for 10 years, says that 'living with an attitude of gratitude and thankfulness increases happiness over 25%.'

- This doesn't mean we deny and lie to the existence and reality of pain and real discouragement a thousand times, no!
- It means we must find ways to navigate through a real world of sorrow, sickness, and tragedy with real coping skills that come from Jesus Christ Himself.

**Look at Isaiah 14:12-16**  
**Ungratefulness and unthankfulness began in Heaven and not on Earth.**

- A. Lucifer became ungrateful with the privilege to retract the raw glory of God before time began.
- B. He became proud and discontent with the role God gave him in serving.
- C. Lucifer felt he could do better by himself.
- D. He did not feel appreciated by the ones he served.
- E. He felt cheated and overlooked by God.

Lucifer became unthankful, yet he had the top position in all of the celestial galaxies and Heaven known to creation. His unthankfulness got him kicked out from Heaven and banished to a lake of fire! Yes, thankfulness is a Heaven or hell issue. God saw Israel's complaining in the wilderness, a very serious issue in Numbers, chapter 12.

- A. Latrell Sprewell, former NBA great, who played for the Minnesota Timberwolves, earned \$14.6 million dollars and told his team, why should I help you win a title when you are not doing anything for me? I'm at risk, he goes on to say, I got my family to feed and anything can happen. What a classic case of greed and unthankfulness, and being so self-absorbed with his problems.
- B. Since April 2017, there were 950 protests, demonstrations, marches, sit-ins, and rallies in the U.S. This is our American right to protest and there are germane issues we should voice our opinions about, but clearly we also see protest here in America that are rooted in outright unthankfulness, lawlessness, and a passionate disrespect for authority.
- C. America has risen in lawsuits by 37%, according to ADA Title 3 lawsuits for federal court, of a total of 6,601. Again, there are lawsuits that are necessary but there are many proven fraudulent lawsuits rooted in ungratefulness for what one now has. They sue for something they don't have knowing they will have to lie with the facts they present.

**The real issue is looking at a complaining, unthankful attitude through God's eyes and not your own self validated emotions and feelings.**

Read 2 Tim 3:1-5 AMP

- God puts being a blasphemer, a brutal person, or traitor in the same synonym category as being ungrateful and unthankful.
- For example when I reject the authority or provisions God has placed in my life I am essentially rejecting Him, and acting arrogant about it.
- This produces an ungrateful and unthankful attitude.
- Thankfulness is a godly character.
- It shows our recognition of who our God is, and what He continues to do for us.
- Thankfulness is a part of showing your true maturity of love relationally to others.
- Real thankfulness is not about revealing in the things God has given you or done for you. It's not ever about celebrating the way He has fixed your problems.
- Thankfulness is about looking past the issues and recognizing who God truly is, and what He is truly like.
- Thankfulness is about professing the sovereignty and grace of God in the middle of an unfair and ungrateful set of circumstances.

Read 1 Sam 30:6

- A. David is on the run from Saul for 14 months. Saul is seeking to kill him.
  - B. David runs into the enemy's camp called the Philistines. This word Philistine means, to wear down, roll, and wallow in self-pity.
  - C. David's men want to stone him in vs. 6 because they knew David should not have agreed to fight with King Achish against Israel. Consequently David and his men lose their wives, children, and substance at the hands of the Amalekites in 1 Sam 30:1-2, in a place called Ziklag.
  - D. Ziklag means a place of mental pressing.
- 1) David ignores the fact he brought this tragedy on himself.
  - 2) He never argues with the men wanting to stone him.
  - 3) He begins to thank the Lord and encourage himself while facing a mess of a situation. This is the pressing of our praise and thanksgiving.
  - 4) He then goes to the priest to inquire of the Lord in vs. 7. Some of us wrestle to smile, be gratuitous to each other and leadership.
    - a. He's not showing a bad attitude towards leadership in his pain. He submits it all in the pressing of thankfulness. (Read again Ps. 30:1-5)
    - b. Now the Holy Ghost speaks to David to go and fight the Amalekites.
    - c. At the same moment David releases a praise of gratitude in 1 Sam 30:6. God allows an Egyptian to fall sick in vs. 9-14 to give David His direction to whip his enemy. This is why an attitude of thankfulness is important.
    - d. And you get it and develop it in your Ziklag while pressing against your flesh in praise and thanksgiving. Sometimes this can get passionate and intense with your tongues.

**One reason people struggle to express thankfulness is because of the spirit of fear.**

- 1) The insecurity of their situation.
- 2) The fear of the unknown.
- 3) The fear that God will not come through for me.

Read Eph. 2:13 KJV

The blood of Jesus is not some religious phrase we quote as a tradition.

- a) It is our ADT security system that devils and destruction will obey when we exercise the blood in praise and intercession.
  - b) The blood is our comforter. It is my security when I feel all alone, but thanksgiving and the name of Jesus executes the blood.
  - c) God told Moses when I see the blood I will pass the death angel by your house.
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- We get the Holy Ghost through repentance and thanksgiving.
  - We get direction through thanksgiving.
  - We grow in love one for another through thanksgiving and gratitude.

Resolution:

1. Send a thank you note to somebody like our attorney friend did.
2. Be intentional to express thankfulness.
3. Increase your prayer and fasting in order to be empowered to show thankfulness.

DLR/ag