

Introduction: We think “Thank you” is a polite ritual.

Four reasons why when you say “Thank You,” from your heart to God, it means a lot:

Reason #1:

²⁰ For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Romans 1:20-21 (NIV)

- Giving thanks _____ that all that you are and all that you have comes from God.

- I honor God as _____.

Reason #2:

¹ Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³ But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. ⁴ Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.

Ephesians 5:1-4 (NIV)

- Giving thanks forces us to focus on what we _____ instead of what we _____ have.
- I honor God as _____.

Reason #3:

¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. ¹⁹ Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:17-20 (NIV)
(see also Philippians 2:14,15)

- Giving thanks reveals, in every circumstance, the extent to which the Holy Spirit is _____ of my life.
- I honor His Spirit as _____ and _____.

Reason #4:

¹⁶ Be joyful always; ¹⁷ pray continually; ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)

- Giving thanks demands we live _____ in every and all circumstances.

- I honor God as _____ and _____.

Summary: Thankfulness is the _____ of the soul.

Reference: *True Spirituality* by Francis Schaeffer

Discussion Questions:

1. Thankfulness is often viewed as the “nice thing to do” when we feel grateful. God’s Word, however, places “thankfulness” at the very core of our spiritual lives.
 - a. Explain why the giving of thanks is so crucial Biblically.
 - b. What does it tell us about our perspective?
 - c. What does it tell us about our view of God?
 - d. What does it tell us about our level of faith / trust in God through our circumstances?
2. How would you evaluate your relationship with God –your “spiritual temperature”- today, based on the contentment level of your heart, the thankfulness of your lips, and your overall attitude?
3. In what areas do you find it difficult to be thankful? Why?
4. In what areas do you find it easy to be thankful? Why?