

Thanksgiving 2022

I. Introduction to thankfulness

1. Three is a natural ability to be thankful.
2. God is self-existent, has life in Himself, not dependent upon anything or anyone (Ex. 3:4; Jn. 5:26; 1 Thes. 1:9).
3. Since God does not “need” anyone, then why does He want us to thank Him?
 - 1) For all things (Eph. 5:20).
 - 2) In all things (1 Thes. 5:18).

II. Thankfulness is the result of spirit filling (Eph. 5:18, 20).

1. Thankfulness is human reaction to divine enabling.
2. Can then can a person who is not rightly related to the Father give the kind of thanks that God wants?
3. Since God does not “need” our thanks, but does want us to thank Him, who does thankfulness benefit?

III. The basis for thankfulness is God’s grace.

1. Grace is God’s “attitude” by which he gives something that is undeserved, unwarranted (Rom. 11:6).
2. No human deserves to be saved spiritually (1 Cor. 1:26-29).
3. The Father chose us in Christ (Eph. 1:4).
4. It is by grace we were saved (Eph. 2:8-9).
5. It is by grace we are being saved (Eph. 2:8-9).
6. It is by grace we will be saved in the future (Eph. 2:7).
7. Thankfulness can be related to all nine facets of the fruit from the Spirit.

IV. Conclusion.

1. True thankfulness is the natural development, or result of Spirit filling.
2. True thankfulness comes after the divine enabling of the Holy Spirit.
3. The individual Christian can self-analyze his relationship to the Father, and thus the Holy Spirit, by assessing if he is genuinely thankful or not (2 Cor. 9:15).