

"Thanks-Giving"
November 6, 2022 – Bill Sukolsky

¹⁵One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶He threw himself at Jesus' feet, & thanked him – & he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷Jesus asked, 'Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸Was no one found to return & give praise to God except this foreigner?'

¹⁹Then he said to him, 'Rise & go; your faith has made you well.'
Luke 17:15-19 NIV⁸⁴

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Our gratitude is a measure of our awareness of God's presence & knowledge of his character; thankfulness reveals our heart.

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Giving thanks admits dependence & promotes contentment

*"(It) is our recognition that in God's goodness & faithfulness he provides for us physically & spiritually (&) that all we are & have comes from him - we are totally dependent on the Lord."*¹

Giving thanks stimulates virtue & uproots vice

*"(In) gratitude, we experience life as a gift. It opens us up to wonder, delight, & humility; it makes our hearts generous, & liberates us from the prison of self-occupation."*²

Giving thanks demonstrates obedience
& strengthens relationships

*"Gratitude is thread & soil, glue & oil."*³

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*Know God through Scripture*

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted & built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, & overflowing with thankfulness. *Colossians 2:6-7*

*Say it – Pray it – Obey it*

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. *1 Thessalonians 5:16-17*

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<sup>1</sup> from Jerry Bridges, *The Practice of Godliness*, p.123

<sup>2</sup> from John Ortberg, *When the Game is Over, It All Goes Back in the Box*,

<sup>3</sup> from Margaret Visser, *The Gift of Thanks*, pp. 326-328