

HOW GOD BLESSES GRATEFUL HEARTS

A Thanksgiving Message
Rick Warren

"If you obey the Lord your God and faithfully keep all his commands . . . all these blessings will be yours: The Lord will bless your towns and your fields. The Lord will bless you with many children, with abundant crops, and with many cattle and sheep. The Lord will bless your grain crops and the food you prepare from them. The Lord will bless everything you do. The Lord will defeat your enemies when they attack you . . . he will make you his own people, as he has promised."

Deuteronomy 28:1-9 (NLT)

"Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you."

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NLT)

BOTH SCRIPTURE & SCIENTIFIC STUDIES SHOW HAVING A MINDSET OF GRATITUDE YIELDS GREAT BLESSINGS

- Gratitude improves your brain and physical health
- Gratitude creates happiness
- Gratitude helps you sleep better
- Gratitude is the antidote to toxic emotions
- Gratitude improves relationships
- Gratitude opens the door to people and opportunities
- Gratitude is the evidence of maturity
- Gratitude pleases God and brings his blessing

A STARTER LIST FOR THANKING GOD THIS THANKSGIVING

"You made my whole being; you formed me in my mother's body. I praise you because you made me." Psalm 139:13-14 (NCV)

"Be grateful for every year you live." Ecclesiastes 11:8 (GNT)

"My heart is happy because you saved me." Psalm 13:5 (NCV)

"I will give you thanks because you are good." Psalm 54:6 (GNT)

"I praise the Lord for answering my prayers." Psalm 118:21 (CEV)

"I praise the Lord, because he guides me." Psalm 16:7 (GNT)

"Tell the Lord how thankful you are, because he is kind and always merciful." Psalm 118:1 (CEV)

"Give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love." Psalm 107:8 (NIV)

GOD'S 3 FAVORITE WAYS FOR ME TO EXPRESS GRATITUDE

1. HABIT OF GRATITUDE: _____
"Sing out your thanks to him; sing praises to our God." Psalm 147:7 (TLB)

"Sing psalms, hymns, and sacred songs; sing to God with thanksgiving in your hearts." Colossians 3:16 (GNT)

2. HABIT OF GRATITUDE: _____
"I will offer a sacrifice as a special gift to you. I will thank you, Lord, because you are good." Psalm 54:6 (NCV)

"Celebrate the Harvest Festival, to honor the Lord your God, by bringing him a freewill offering in proportion to the blessing he has given you . . . Do this at the one place of worship." Deuteronomy 16:10-11 (GNT)

"I will sacrifice a thank offering to you." Psalm 116:17 (NIV)

"Those people honor me who bring me offerings to show thanks. And I, God, will save those who do that." Psalm 50:23 (NCV)

"Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income, and he will fill your barns with wheat and barley and overflow your wine casks with the wines." Proverbs 3:9-10 (TLB)

"Bring your tithe to eat before the Lord . . . The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first in your lives." Deuteronomy 14:23 (TLB)

"Bring your whole tithe to the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.'" Malachi 3:10 (NIV)

3. HABIT OF GRATITUDE: _____
See 1 Corinthians 11:23-27

"Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?" 1 Corinthians 10:16 (NIV)

"Thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 15:57 (NLT)

"Everything you do or say should be done to obey Jesus your Lord. And in all you do, give thanks to God the Father through Jesus." Colossians 3:17 (NCV)

"Thank the Lord! Praise his name! Tell the world about his wonderful love. How mighty he is!" Isaiah 12:4 (NLT)

"The grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God." 2 Corinthians 4:15 (NIV)