



CONSECRATE

TO BE SET APART

Give Thanks Unto The Lord



Oh give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good: for His mercy endures forever (Psalms 107:1). For this month's Consecration, our focus is on giving thanks unto God. There are many ways we can give thanks unto the Lord. Ultimately, when we give thanks to God we are acknowledging our gratitude towards Him; Who He is, what He has done, what He is doing, and what He will do. God is deserving of our praise and adoration. All that we have achieved and accomplished in this life is only by His grace, so it is only right that we give thanks.

God is faithful and He is our true source. Even in the midst of our troubles, He is always with us. It is impossible to harden your heart when your lips are filled with praise and thankfulness towards God. There is no room left to complain. When we consider His mercy, His grace, and His promises, the weight of it all is overwhelming. He is all sufficient: our protector, our provider, our counselor, our everything!

We should be thankful for community. God has given us like-minded believers to fellowship and be in unity with. We know that God is always with us, but He has also ordained relationships with our brothers and sisters. We are not meant to go through life alone. Our godly fellowship with one another brings glory to the Lord. Jesus says in Matthew 18:20, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them."

Although there are many reasons to be thankful unto the Lord, Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross tops the list. Without Christ, we would still be lost, bound by sin and death. But as Paul said, "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." In Christ, we have salvation, forgiveness, redemption, and everything that pertains to life and godliness. The greatest part of it all is that it's a free gift. We have nothing to boast in except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. At the same time, we have everything to be thankful for.

Information on Fasting	Bethel Prayer Schedule
Visit BethelWorld.org and the May 2018 devotional for information on the purpose of fasting, helpful tips while fasting and appropriate things to do and not do during a time of fasting.	Monday: Prayer at 6AM & noon in the former sanctuary. Tuesday: Prayer at 6AM & noon in the former sanctuary. Wednesday: Monthly church-wide day of Prayer and Fasting - Prayer at 6AM & noon in the former sanctuary - 7PM service.

“Harden Not Your Heart”

READ

Psalms 100:4 • 2 Chronicles 5:13 • Philippians 4:6-7 •
James 1:2 • 1 Thessalonians 5:18 • Psalms 118:24 • Colos-
sians 3:17 • Psalms 107:8-9

REFLECT

Most people would probably say that the Israelites had a great deal to be thankful about. For starters, God delivered them out of the hands of Pharaoh, they departed Egypt with both silver and gold, and the Bible notes that there was not one feeble person among them! To top it all off, God had even promised them a land of their own, “flowing with milk and honey.” Yet, instead of giving thanks, they chose to murmur and complain about every situation. They often complained about Moses’ leadership, glorified their days of slavery, and at their lowest point, forsook the Lord to worship a golden calf. Ultimately, we tend to recount the children of Israel’s hard heart towards God more than their thankfulness towards Him.

Trials and tribulations can rock us to our core at times, but it is important to remember that God is and forever will be faithful. He heals the brokenhearted, sets the captives free, and comforts those who mourn. He sees us through our darkest time and always remains a very present help. Therefore, we should never cease to give thanks and bless His holy name. Although we don’t give thanks “for” every circumstance, because of His faithfulness we can give thanks “in” every circumstance. Psalms 23:4 says, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me...” We know there is nothing too hard for God. For that, give Him thanks!

Do you give God the thanks He deserves?

Do you allow trials and tribulations to minimize your thanks to God?

What is God saying to you through this devotional?

RESPOND

- Think of two ways you can give God more of the thanks He deserves
- Ask God to make you more aware of His goodness
- Repent for the times you failed to acknowledge God’s faithfulness

“Cherishing Community”

READ

Romans 12:15-18 • Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 • John 15:13 •
1 Thessalonians 5:11 • 1 Peter 4:8 • Psalms 133:1 • 1 John 4:7
• Colossians 3:13

REFLECT

In Genesis 1, we are invited to see God’s seven-day work schedule. He creates the heavens and the earth, divides the waters from land, and creates every living creature beneath the sea and in the sky. On the sixth day, God makes man in his own image and brings forth Adam. All that God had made was good; however, He proclaimed that it was not good for man to be alone! In Genesis 2:19, the Lord formed the beasts of the field and fowls of the air and brought them to Adam, but none were a suitable companion for him. Not until there was Eve. There are many of God’s creations to be in awe of, but none are quite as spectacular as those made in His image.

God has blessed us with many things. Perhaps one of the most overlooked blessings we possess is community. Psalms 133:1 says, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity.” We should cherish and be thankful for one another. After all, how can we say we love God and despise our brother? God has not only endorsed community but He commands it. We are to bear the infirmities of the weak and provoke one another to love and good works. Romans 12:15 encourages us to rejoice with those who rejoice and to weep with those who weep. God has given us a community to pray for and to pray with. Let us be thankful for the people He has placed in our lives.

What does Christian community mean to you?

Does anything hinder or propel you to fellowship with like-minded believer?

What is God saying to you through this devotional?

RESPOND

- Allow God to show you the benefits of Christian fellowship
- Connect with a lifegroup that can help you grow in your faith
- Be willing to leave your comfort zone

“Christ and the Cross”

READ

Galatians 6:14 • Colossians 1:20 • Hebrews 12:2 •
Philippians 2:8 • 1 Peter 2:24-25 • Isaiah 53:5 •
Philippians 3:10-11 • John 3:16

REFLECT

When people give gifts, the first reaction is usually to say thank you. Regardless of whether it is a good or bad gift, thanks may come out naturally. As believers, hopefully, our response to God is similar. John 3:16 says, “For God so love the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” Through Christ, not only did God gave the very best gift He had, but also a gift that keeps on giving. In Him, we have salvation, redemption, freedom, healing, and the list goes on. Because of Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross, we all have something to be thankful for.

The Bible states that in Christ, we who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. There was a veil that separated us from such a holy God, but it was torn in two, from top to bottom. This simply illustrates that God, not man, initiated the removal of barriers in our relationship. The cross has given us unlimited access to God. According to Hebrews 4:16, “we can now come boldly before the throne of grace...” As wonderful as it is to say thank you for all God has done, it will not be as effective if we fail to show our thankfulness. Ultimately, we show our thankfulness by how we respond to the message of the cross. Some will reject it, but the thankful receive it with gladness.

Have you received the gifts God has made available to you?

Do you take advantage of your unlimited access to God?

What is God saying to you through this devotional?

RESPOND

- Think about all the benefits we have through the cross
- Take time each day to thank God for who He is and what He has done
- Tell others about the goodness of God

