



Happy
Thanksgiving

Wikipedia

thanks·giv·ing, THaNGks' giviNG/*noun*

1. the expression of gratitude, especially to God.

“He offered prayers **in thanksgiving** for his safe arrival”

2. (in North America) an annual national holiday marked by religious observances and a traditional meal including turkey. The holiday commemorates a harvest festival celebrated by the Pilgrims in 1621, and is held in the US on the fourth Thursday in November. A similar holiday is held in Canada, usually on the second Monday in October.

Dictionary.com

1. The act of giving thanks; grateful acknowledgment of benefits or favors, especially to God.
2. an expression of thanks, especially to God.
3. a public celebration in acknowledgment of divine favor or kindness.
4. a day set apart for giving thanks to God.
5. (*initial capital letter*) Thanksgiving Day.

Founding Fathers

At the founding of the union in 1789, George Washington issued the first national proclamation for a nationwide day of “thanksgiving and prayer.”

1. Because It Honors God

When we are thankful, we recognize that God exists, and we are acting on the reality of His life as the very source and means of ours. True thankfulness recognizes our total dependence on God and stems from realizing that everything going on in our lives and all we have is the product of God's sovereign control, infinite wisdom, purposes, grace, and activity.

2 Corinthians 4

15 All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

2. It is Commanded in the Spirit

First, the Psalms are filled
with the call to give thanks.

Psalms 100:4 which says, "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."

1 Thessalonians 5:18, "In everything keep on giving thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"

3. Dangerous Consequences of Thanklessness

Thanklessness is dangerous to self and others. It dishonors God and leads to proud dependence on man rather than God (Rom. 1:21).

In addition, it leads to *bitterness, complaining,* and a joyless life (Heb. 12:15).

4. Thanks for everything and in everything

(Eph. 5:20; 1 Thess. 5:18). It helps us to focus on the sovereignty of God and the fact that He is in control and working all things together for good regardless of how they may seem to us in our limited perspective.

(Rom. 8:28, 29; Jam. 1:2-4; Gen. 50:19-20).

5. The Most Important Reason to be Thankful

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

1 Chronicles 16-34

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his
love endures forever.

Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the Lord and
lean not on your own understanding.
Surrender to Him in all things
and HE will make your paths straight.

Weekly Devotional

2 Corinthians 9

1 You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. 12 This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.