

Faith Fight Podcast – Thanksgiving and Praise

When you stop to give thanks and praise to God for all that he has done it not only pleases God but it encourages you as well. As Christians, we want to always maintain a heart of gratitude and thanksgiving because God has been so good in our lives. We want to appreciate His goodness and also remember what life was like before we came to know him.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NLV)

In everything give thanks. This is what God wants you to do because of Christ Jesus.

This was written by Paul the Apostle. He wasn't teaching that we should thank God for everything that happens to us, but in everything. When evil or bad things come from you, you can still be thankful for God's presence with you. If you look into your situation long enough you will find something to be thankful for.

Psalm 106:1 (NLV)

Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His loving-kindness lasts forever.

The Lord Is Good to His People. If you look over your life and think about the bad things that could've or should've happened to you, you have to thank God for His loving-kindness over your life.

Psalm 100:4 (NLV)

Go into His gates giving thanks and into His holy place with praise. Give thanks to Him. Honor His name.

When we come into the house of God we have to ensure that our hearts are willing and joyful to come into worship. We can remember God's goodness and dependability and then worship with thanksgiving and praise.

Ephesians 1:15-16 (NLV)

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all Christians. Since then, I always give thanks for you and pray for you.

Most of the people that God has placed around us are there to encourage us. For you, it could be a mentor or church leader or someone who you have mentored but through their spiritual growth and leadership it could serve as an encouragement to you. You should be thankful to God for people like this. This is what Paul was experiencing and it caused him to Thank God for the Christians in Ephesus.

2 Corinthians 4:15 (NIV)

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.

As God continues to work through his people, their lives will continue to give God glory. The way that this verse applies to us today is, as a result of the testimonies of others, it should cause you to be more thankful to God for all the good that he has done in the lives of others.

Psalm 95:1-3

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.

These are all reasons to give God glory and be thankful.

1. He is our salvation
2. He is a great God
3. He is a great King
4. He is God over all
5. The whole earth is in His hands.

Psalm 107:8-9 (NIV)

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

We have to be thankful for God's love and faithfulness that He has shown us over the course of our lives. He is a way maker, and a provider. He not only meets our needs but satisfies us with good things. He is our good heavenly father.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

This verse in context talks about presenting our prayer request to God. It mentions that thanksgiving is a part of receiving the answers to your prayers. Being thankful when you have a need shows that in spite of your need, you still have a grateful heart and that you appreciate God's provision in your life.

Psalm 75:1

We proclaim how great you are and tell of the wonderful things you have done.

It is good to share your testimony of how good God has been in your life. It is a form of thanksgiving to share with others of how good God has been in your life. It is also a way to encourage yourself and others to keep the faith and still believe God.

Weekly Prayer Plan – Thanksgiving and Praise

How to Use this Template:

Download and save this document to begin using at the beginning (Monday) of every week. Every Week will have different bible verses to meditate on based on the Faith Fight Podcast episode topic for that week. Determine the time and place that you will devote to prayer. The below structure is set for one hour and is only used as a guide. You can adjust your timing if necessary.

Time: _____

Place: _____

5 min – Drawing Near To God

5 min – Confession

10 min – God-Centered Petitions

10 min – Intercessory Prayer

10 min – Personal Petitions

15 min – Meditation

5 min – Praise, Thanksgiving & Closing

1. **DRAWING NEAR TO GOD** - Matt. 6:9 “This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name”

God the Father is the focus of all our prayers. We should never forget what a privilege it is to bend our knees on earth and reach almighty God in heaven.

Psalm 95:6 - Come, let us worship and bow down, Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

Isaiah 6:3 - And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."

Psalm 84:1-2 - How lovely are Your dwelling places, O LORD of hosts! My soul longed and even yearned for the courts of the LORD; My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

2. **CONFESSION** - Matt. 6:12 “Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us”

When we repent and forgive others, we maintain fellowship with God. But if we hold grudges, that fellowship is broken. God loves to answer our prayers when the lines of communication are not disrupted.

Psalm 51:1-2 - Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Acts 3:19 - Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

James 4:8 - Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

3. **GOD CENTERED PETITIONS Matt 6:10** "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven."

Prayer should reflect a desire to align ourselves with God's goals and purposes, not to get Him to follow our plans.

Job 22:21 - "Submit to God and be at peace with him; in this way prosperity will come to you.

Psalm 40:8 - I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart."

Romans 12:1-2 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

4. **PERSONAL PETITIONS Matt 6:11** "Give us today our daily bread."

We are dependent upon the Lord for our needs and He wants us to come to Him with our requests.

Matt 7:7-8 - Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Matt 6:8 - Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

James 4:2 - You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. **You do not have because you do not ask God.**

5. **MEDITATION Joshua 1:8** "Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."

Meditation is thinking about the word of God to understand what it means in the context of the scripture and how it can apply to your life today. The Word of God is powerful enough to still be relevant in your life today even though it was written thousands of years ago.

Read through the scripture passages for today as listed below:

Meditational Verses

Monday: Psalm 106

Tuesday: Philippians 4:6-8

Wednesday: Psalm 95:1-3

Thursday: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Friday: Psalm 75:1

Saturday: Psalm 100

Sunday: Psalm 103

Once you have read the scripture for today, write down your answer to the questions below or any other insight/revelation that you receive in your prayer journal.

1. Is there a promise to claim?
2. Is there a lesson to learn?
3. Is there a blessing to enjoy?
4. Is there a command to obey?
5. Is there a sin to avoid?
6. Is there a new thought to carry with me?

- 6. PRAISE & THANKSGIVING 1 John 5:14-15** “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.”

We can end our prayer time with confidence that God has heard our prayer and will answer in His perfect timing. Demonstrate your faith in Him by showing thanks before you see the answer to your prayers.

Psalm 136:1 - Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Psalm 103:1-5 - Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits— who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.