

FIRST THINGS FIRST, BE GRATEFUL!

Monday, November 23, 2020 1900 hours

Written by The Holy Spirit and scribed by Deacon Dr. Timothy K. Price, Sr.

START RECORDING!

OPENING SCRIPTURE & PRAYER

1. Opening song The Presence of The Lord Is Here
2. Scripture and Prayer - Appointee
3. Learning Objectives and Focus Scripture
4. Prayer Deacon Dr. Price, Sr.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Area for Study and Contemplation
2. Bible, Notepad, Pencil

TONIGHT'S LEARNING OBJECTIVESon Thanksgiving

1. The learner will know that they need to be thankful everyday, not just
2. The learner will be able to identify the things that they are grateful for
3. The learner will understand that gratitude comes before altitude in the kingdom of God

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

Good evening saints,

It's the week of Thanksgiving, and before we go mourning the fact that Thanksgiving is not going to be that way we want it to be this year, let's be thankful that God has left us here to have Thanksgiving Day in our sights. This time last week we were staring another four years of Donald Trump in the face. He is not gone yet, but the stage has been set, be grateful. God has allowed us to see new members born into our families this year, be grateful. If you are hearing the sound of my voice, you are still in the land of the living, be grateful. We have so much to be grateful for, but how often do we take the time to let the Lord know how much we appreciate everything that He does for us?

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Psalm 100:4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

STUDY TOPICS

1. Thank Him
2. Praise Him
3. Bless Him

STUDY TOPICS

1. Thank Him

Psalm 107:1-3 reads Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His [a]mercy endures forever. 2 Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,

Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy, 3 And gathered out of the lands, From the east and from the west, From the north and from the south. The psalmist begins by giving thanks to the Lord, and why, because He is good!, and His mercy endures forever. That same mercy that we refused to bestow on someone who needed it, and God forgave us for it, is the same mercy that endures forever. Verse two is a scripture that the Holy Spirit allowed me to call when I walked into a group of teachers early one morning who were talking about God, and calling scriptures in a place where we are not supposed to talk about God, and God let His word go forth anyway. That made me want to shout right there, because even when you are in a place where we are forbidden to worship God openly, there are still people who call on Him, and don't mind that you know that they call on Him. Then we need to thank Him for redeeming us from the hand of the enemy. How many of you know that if God doesn't set His plan of salvation in place, if His Son Jesus Christ refuses to be obedient to death on the cross, there is no remission of sin, and we are doomed to spend eternity in Hell? Be Grateful! Then look at all the lands that He called us from. The scripture says the east, west, north and south. I believe the psalmist was being polite. Some of us were in land of the club, some of us were the land of the bottle, some of us were in land of self-medication, and some of us were in the land of self-righteousness, but I'm here to tell you tonight that the further away you were from God when you heard His call, the more you should appreciate being with His now. This is the good part, is that even though we were in all of the places we were when we didn't have a relationship with God, God still called us into His Holy family.

Psalm 9:1 reads ***I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works.*** This is what thankfulness looks like,

that we are willing to tell everyone we know, and everywhere we go of God's goodness, and of what He has done for us. This is true thankfulness. Again, let the redeemed of the Lord say so!, and Be grateful.

2. Praise Him

We cannot thank God enough for all that He has done for us, but if we manage to run out of things to thank Him for, we should go right into praising Him. ***Psalm 95:1-6*** reads ***Oh come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. 2 Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. 3 For the Lord is the great God, And the great King above all gods. 4 [a]In His hand are the deep places of the earth, The heights of the hills are His also. 5 The sea is His, for He made it; And His hands formed the dry land. 6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.*** We can praise God when we pray, we can praise God when we sing about Him, we can praise God when things are good and things are bad, but whatever you do, please remember to praise Him, He is so worthy of our praise. The psalm says everything we need to say really. He reminds us of how big God is, how we can never escape Him, how He created the earth that we live on, and then reminds us to worship by bowing to Him in prayer. When we get this part right we will be well on our way to getting our praise on. ***Psalm 66:1-4*** ***Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth! 2 Sing out the honor of His name; Make His praise glorious. 3 Say to God, "How awesome are Your works! Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit themselves to You. 4 All the earth shall worship You, And sing praises to You; They shall sing praises to Your name."*** *Selah.* The psalmist says to make

his praise glorious. We make God's praise glorious when we remember when we acknowledge Him, and let Him know that we know of and appreciate His marvelous works. **Psalm 145:3-9** reads ***Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; And His greatness is [b]unsearchable. 4 One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts.5 [c]I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, And [d]on Your wondrous works. 6 Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts, And I will declare Your greatness. 7 They shall [e]utter the memory of Your great goodness, And shall sing of Your righteousness. 8 The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy. 9 The Lord is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works.***

Another way to praise God is when we tell our children about Him, and let them see us praising Him. In verse four it says that one generation shall praise Him to another. Jesus left the earth plane 1,987 years ago and we are still talking about Him. There are only two others that are that older that I know that people are still talking about, God the Father and The Holy Spirit. **Proverbs 9:10** reads ***"The egfear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*** This saints is the Holy Spirit revealing His truth to me to pass on to you. How many times have we read **Proverbs 4:7** which reads ***Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding?*** Thank you Holy Spirit for revealing your truth, now I fully understand that understanding is the knowledge of God. Through the acts of praise and wisdom of our fathers and mothers, and them passing Him down from generation to generation, we have received the goodness and mercy of God. To God be the glory!

3. Bless Him

Psalm 145:1-2 reads *I will [a]extol You, my God, O King; And I will bless Your name forever and ever. 2 Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever.* Once we thank God, and praise God, we need to bless God. One of the ways we bless God is by being obedient to Him. **1 Samuel 15:22-23** reads: ***So Samuel said: "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.*** When we are obedient to God, we acknowledge that He is in control. We know this to be so because in the bible study Rev. Leaphart taught Friday night, she mentioned that the people of Israel had sinned against God after Moses had been given the Ten Commandments, but before they entered the promised land. That's the reason they wandered around in the wilderness for forty years, as God allowed some of their sinful generation to die out. Let's take a moment to examine ourselves saints. Where is our wilderness? Where because of our stubbornness and stiff necks are we refusing to obey God's word? Where are we so close to our breakthrough, so close to exceedingly and abundantly more that we can think or ask, but God will not bless us because we will not obey? It has everything to do with the power that works in us. The Holy Spirit has asked me to go ahead and call that scripture in its entirety, so you won't miss the point here. **Ephesians 3:20** reads ***Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,*** and **John 10:10** reads ***The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*** God has placed His spirit in us, and when we communicate with the Holy Spirit, we can be just like the apostles on the Day of Pentecost when they received The Holy Spirit of God. This

is what we should be grateful about saints, that the The Lord is still giving us an opportunity to get our houses in order by being obedient to Him. My prayer for all of us this Thanksgiving week, that we take time to search ourselves, ask God to pinpoint that area of disobedience that is in us, and snatch it right out of us, so we can live the exceedingly abundant life that He has for us, in the name of Jesus I pray, Amen and Hallelujah. Bless Him saints, and Be Grateful!