

## Living with Thankfulness

- 1) When you're in the midst of a struggle – whether tragedy, sickness, betrayal, or hardship – human nature wants to look at the problem and do what's natural: worry, fret, get even. But God gives another option: trust in Him. When you do, you will receive His peace – His perfect peace for the very moment you're in. He knows all that you're facing, and, even with chaos ensuing on the outside, you can walk in the fullness of His grace and peace on the inside. What will you trust Him with today? Grace and Gratitude (Youversion) day 2
  - a. What often steals our joy and makes us unhappy?
  - b. What advice does the Apostle Paul give in Phil. 4:4-7?
  - c. How do we know that Paul knows what he is talking about?
  - d. How can we overcome the struggles we face in our daily lives?
  
- 2) Christians and non-Christians go to the same grocery stores, shopping malls, and websites to buy what they need and want. They deposit their earnings at the same banks. Yet Christians lay up treasures in heaven. They use their money and possessions strategically and sacrificially to serve others in love and to advance God's kingdom. "What Jesus Demands from the World" Youversion
  - a. How does Matthew 6:19-21 encourage us to live with thankfulness?
  - b. What other treasures do Christians use to serve others?
  - c. How does thankfulness come out of giving away money, time and talent?

3) If you want to be rich, then count your blessings.

I once read...

- If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep... you are richer than 75% of the world.
- If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace... you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.
- If you woke up this morning with more health than illness... you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.
- If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation... you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.
- If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death... you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.
- If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful... you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.
- If you can read this message, you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you, and furthermore, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all.

We are truly a blessed people. And yet, so often we complain about what we have and what we do not have. We forget sometimes that complaining about our lives is sinful. We are, in effect, telling God that we are not happy with what He has provided for us, and that we do not trust His promises to help us in times of trouble. Have you ever given a gift, only to have the recipient treat it as meaningless? We are the recipients of countless gifts from our Father, but how often are we thankful? Not only has God blessed us with most, if not all, of the above. He has also given us the greatest blessing of all, His Son Jesus Christ.

Read Rom. 8:31-39.

- a. What is the key to living with thankfulness?