

A GRATEFUL HEART
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Why do some not have a grateful heart towards Jesus? I believe it's because they take His salvation for granted. They do not see the value. After all, it didn't cost them anything. Is this not the value system some people have? The value of whatever they have is determined by its cost.

Why should someone have a grateful heart for Jesus? Christians should be ecstatic, grateful when worshipping Jesus because He made salvation possible and keeps people out of hell. David gives us great examples in the book of Psalm. Take this one for an example: ¹ Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth. ² Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing. ³ Know that the Lord Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. ⁴ Enter His gates with thanksgiving, And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name. ⁵ For the Lord is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting. And His faithfulness to all generations." (Psalm 100:1-5)

This Psalm is titled "A Psalm of Thanksgiving." This title indicates the purpose of the psalm, which is to express gratitude and praise to God. The act of thanksgiving is deeply rooted in Israelite worship practices, as seen in Leviticus 7:12-15, where offerings of thanksgiving were part of the sacrificial system. This psalm serves as a model for worship, emphasizing the importance of gratitude in the believer's relationship with God.

We are to make a joyful noise to the LORD. The phrase "make a joyful noise" suggests an exuberant and vocal expression of praise. This is not a quiet or reserved act, but one of loud and enthusiastic celebration. The Hebrew word for "joyful noise" can also be translated as "shout," indicating a public declaration of God's greatness. The emphasis on joy reflects the believer's response to God's goodness and sovereignty.

We are to, "Serve the LORD with gladness." This phrase emphasizes the attitude with which we as believers are to approach our service to God. The Hebrew word for "serve" can also mean "worship," which indicates that all acts of service are a form of worship. We are called to serve with "gladness," which suggests a heart full of joy and gratitude. That attitude comes from us as believers understanding God's goodness and faithfulness. In the context of ancient Israel, service to the LORD was not merely ritualistic, but involved a heartfelt devotion.

Entering God's presence with "joyful songs" highlights the importance of worship through music and singing in the life of the believer. Joyful singing is a response to God's majesty and acts as a means of expressing reverence and adoration. This practice is echoed in the New Testament, where believers are encouraged to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; ²⁰ always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;" (Ephesians 5:18-20)

The phrase "Know that the LORD is God" points out that we must acknowledge the LORD's sovereignty and divinity. The declaration that the LORD is God distinguishes Him from all idols worshiped by anyone. We are acknowledging God, "He who made us," as the Creator of everything.

We find this theme throughout Scripture. [“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” \(Genesis 1:1\)](#) The act of creation establishes God's authority over humanity. This phrase also implies a personal relationship, as God intentionally created each individual.

“We are His” signifies our belonging to and a covenant relationship with God. Today we are under the New Covenant. What is the New Covenant? Grace. This relationship is further fulfilled in the New Testament, where believers are described as God's children. [“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,” \(John 1:12\).](#)

“As His people.” We are the community of believers as God's chosen people. [“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;” \(1 Peter 2:9\)](#)

We are the sheep of His pasture. God as a shepherd is a common biblical image of care and guidance. Psalm 23 famously begins with "The LORD is my shepherd," illustrating God's provision and protection. In the New Testament, Jesus identifies Himself as the Good Shepherd.

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving” suggests as worshipers we are to approach God with a heart full of gratitude. Why? Because we have salvation that only God provided through Jesus. [“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” \(John 14:6\)](#)

The "courts" refer to the outer areas of the Temple where people gathered to worship. Praise is an expression of admiration and reverence for God's character and deeds. This practice is mirrored in the New Testament, where believers are encouraged to continually offer a "sacrifice of praise.” [“Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.” \(Hebrews 13:15\).](#) The word continually is a key word in this verse.

We always “give thanks to Him.” By giving thanks to God, we remember the importance of the gratitude in our relationship with Him. Giving thanks is not merely a ritualistic act, but a heartfelt response to God's faithfulness and mercy. The call to give thanks is a recurring theme throughout the Bible. This attitude of gratitude is foundational to a life of worship and devotion.

We are to “bless His name.” Blessing God's name involves acknowledging His holiness, righteousness, and love. This act of blessing is a form of worship that aligns with the first petition of the Model Prayer, "Hallowed be Your name" (Matthew 6:9). It reflects a deep reverence for God and a desire to see His name glorified among all people.

The goodness of the LORD is a foundational attribute of His character. This phrase emphasizes God's benevolent nature, which is evident in His creation and provision. In the context of ancient Israel, the goodness of God was experienced through His covenant relationship with His people, providing them with land, law, and leadership. This goodness is ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ, who embodies God's goodness through His life, death, and resurrection.

The term "loving devotion" is often translated as steadfast love or mercy, which refers to God's loyalty and kindness. The phrase "endures forever" underscores the eternal nature of God's love, which is not limited by time or human failure. This enduring love is prophetically fulfilled in the New Testament through the sacrificial love of Christ, who secures eternal redemption for believers. [“³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to](#)

come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39).

God's faithfulness is His unwavering commitment to His promises and His people. God's reliability and truthfulness are not confined to a single era, but extend throughout history. In biblical history, God's faithfulness is demonstrated in His dealings with Israel, from the Exodus to the return from exile. This faithfulness is a source of hope and assurance for us and future generations, as seen in the promises of a coming Messiah and the establishment of an everlasting kingdom. In the New Testament, God's faithfulness is affirmed in the fulfillment of these promises through Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The question is, do you have a grateful heart? Have a blessed week.

God I'm Just Grateful:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aUhiiwypBqE&list=RDaUhiiwypBqE&start_radio=1