

Be Ye Thankful

I want to look at a principle that I believe is a critical ingredient to a life or walk of faith. It is one thing that many people don't equate with faith. However, the Bible is very specific and mentions this principle in one form or another 133 times, so I believe it is something that we need to consider seriously. I believe it is very important because of the time of year that is upon us and the time in which we live. So what is this principle? I am glad that you asked.

Col.3:15 says that we are to be "THANKFUL"! Paul tells us in 2 Timothy 3:2 that last days people will be unthankful. We are last days people, so we need to guard against this enemy to our faith. Colossians 2:7 says that we are to be established in the faith and will abound in faith *by being thankful*. I have said many times that thanksgiving is the *receipt* for what we believe we receive by faith!! I also want to show you that we can increase what we have by being thankful. When we allow ourselves to become unthankful, we can cut off the flow into our lives and severely hinder our faith.

Let's consider John 6:11 where we see that Jesus took a little and multiplied it by faith abounding through thanksgiving. He gave thanks and increased what they had to the extent that they had enough to meet the needs of thousands of people!! Paul said in Philippians 4:6 that our requests of faith should always be accompanied with thanksgiving. It is a powerful principle that we need to put to work in our lives.

We cannot allow ourselves to be unthankful because, when we do, we become dissatisfied, discouraged, depressed, defeated, unproductive, mean and critical. I believe that being unthankful may well be the reason or cause behind so many broken marriages, families, churches and relationships. I also believe that unthankfulness is the breeding ground for betrayal, so we should make every effort to guard our hearts and lives from this enemy to our faith.

Let me give you some scriptural principles that will help you remain thankful, maintain an attitude of thankfulness, or get thankful.

- 1) We talk about the power of the tongue and usually point to such scriptures as Proverbs 18:21 where it says that death and life are in the power of the tongue. Your tongue can either give life to your faith or kill it. Ephesians 4:29 says "let no unwholesome word come out of your mouth but only what ministers grace and edifies the hearer." There is nobody that hears what you say more than you!! Don't deceive your heart with the words of your mouth. The Bible says that we are to speak to ourselves with spiritual songs and spiritual words and put thanks on our lips continually and in all situations. (Eph.5:19-20 and Heb.13:15) I suspect if we only did Ephesians 4:29, it would be a much quieter world.
- 2) Philippians 4:8 gives a real key to staying thankful. Paul tells us to think on "these things" then goes on to give us a list that, if put to practice, will help us stay

thankful. The problem is that most allow their minds to gravitate toward just the opposite. We simply cannot allow our minds to wander or be fixed on the negative about people or situations. Joshua 1:8, Psalm 1:1-3 and Romans 12:1-2 all tell us that if we are to prosper and be set apart from the world we cannot think like the world. Do not let the spirit of the world get on you and conform you to its thinking thus to its image. Be transformed and remain thankful by doing Philippians 4:8.

- 3) 2 Corinthians 4:18 and 5:7 tell us to be careful what we “look” at. Things that can be seen are temporal thus subject to change, yet we tend to look at them as if they won’t change and will never change!! Do you see only the negative in people, yourself, your mate, your ministry or your circumstances? Make a determination to walk by faith not by sight and remain thankful!! When all you “see” is negative you will struggle to remain thankful!! Along the same note don’t strive to be thankful simply by comparison - like the Pharisee in Luke 18. Give thanks for what God says and look at things through His eyes.

- 4) 2 Timothy 2:22 and 1 Corinthians 15:33 tell us that we are to be wise about with whom we fellowship. Our relationships certainly impact our lives, thoughts and attitudes. I believe there are a lot of things that get “broken” by the conversations that go on in “break” rooms and around the coffee table. Don’t be a part of conversations that are critical and don’t fellowship with people that are always critical and negative; it can get *on you* and cause you to be unthankful. Sometimes after a conversation with some people, you feel like you need a *shower*! Churches, businesses, and families have been ruined by unthankful people that *soil* everyone else.

Be reminded -

BE YE THANKFUL AND THAT WILL HELP YOU TO ABOUND IN FAITH!!!