

***Bringing You  
Closer to God  
His Love and Peace  
And Eternal Life***

**Can You Sustain Hardship Without Giving  
Thanks to God for His Loving Presence with You?  
Do You Go Through Your Troubles and  
Truly Believe God Has forsaken You?  
What Is It That You Give  
Thanks to God in Good Times and Bad?**

**THANKSGIVING**

**Appreciation and Gratitude  
Knowing God's Love**

# THANKSGIVING

## DEFINITIONS

### THANKFUL

1. Conscious of benefit received or for what we are about to receive make us truly thankful.
2. Expressive of thanks .
3. Thankful service.
4. Well pleased.
5. Aware and appreciative of a benefit.
6. Expressive of gratitude.

### THANKS

1. Kindly or grateful thoughts.
2. An expression of gratitude
3. Grateful feelings or thoughts; gratitude: *a heart full of thanks for our escape.*
4. An expression of gratitude: *gave thanks to God.*

### APPRECIATION

1. A feeling or expression of admiration, approval, or gratitude.
2. Expressing my appreciation for all you've done.
3. Sensitive awareness: Especially recognition of values.
4. Recognition of the quality, value, significance, or magnitude of people and things.
5. An expression of gratitude.

### GRATEFUL

1. Appreciative of benefits received
2. Expressing gratitude
3. A pleasure or contentment :
4. Pleasing by reason of comfort supplied.
5. Appreciative of benefits received; thankful: *I'm grateful for your help.*
6. Expressing gratitude.

### GRATITUDE

1. The state of being grateful.
2. Thankfulness .
3. Expressed gratitude for support.
4. The state of being grateful; thankfulness.

### THANKSGIVING

1. A public acknowledgment or celebration of divine goodness.
2. The act of giving thanks.
3. An expression of gratitude: *gave thanks to God;*

## WORDS RELATED TO THANKFULNESS

Underline the Words on Pages 2 & 3 of What You Have Experienced

accept	accepted	acknowledge	admiration
admirative	adoration	affection	aliveness
appreciate	attitude	awe	beatitude
beget	belongingness	benevolence	bless
blessedness	blessings	blissfulness	boon

bowed	braveness	breath	brotherliness
burst	camaraderie	cause	cheerfulness
cherishment	compassion	comradery	comradeship
confess	contentedness	contentment	contrition
debt	deep	delight	deliverance
devotion	devout	devoutness	duty
earnestness	elation	emotion	empathy
enjoyment	escape	exclamation	expressing
expressions	extolment	faith	faithfulness
feel	feelings	felt	festivity
filled	forgiveness	fruitfulness	fullness
gasp	generosity	gentleness	gesture
gifts	giver	gladness	glorious
glow	God	good natured	good will
goodness	grace	graciousness	grateful
gratitude	great	happiness	heart
heartedness	heartfelt	heaven	hold dear
holiness	hope	hopefulness	humanness
humbleness	humility	hymn	immense
inexpressible	inmost	intense	joviality
joy	joyfulness	kindhearted	kindliness
lend	lift	lifted	lord
love	lovingkindness	matter	meekness
mercy	mood	much	note
nurturance	obedience	occasion	oneness
overcomer	overflowed	overflowing	overwhelmed
owe	partake	passion	patience
patriotism	peace	pious	pleasure
poured	praise	prayers	profound
providence	psalmist	purposefulness	reasons
received	recognizing	rejoicing	relief
remember	remembrance	repentance	reverence
sacrifice	satisfaction	selflessness	sense
show	sigh	sign	sincere
sing	smile	songs	spared
spirituality	spirt	supplication	surge
surprise	swelled	tears	thankfully
thanksgiving	thoughtfulness	togetherness	token
true	trust	unselfishness	upbuilding

**ARE YOU THANKING GOD FOR WHAT YOU HAVE UNDERLINED ? ? ?**

Thanksgiving Day is always celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November, so the numerical date is different from year to year. The first Thanksgiving was held in early autumn of 1621 at Plymouth Plantation in Massachusetts. The 53 colonists who had survived harsh conditions celebrated with what they called a harvest festival. Over 90 Indians were invited to join the feast of turkey, duck, fish, venison and cornbread.

**THANKSGIVING** A duty of which gratitude is the grace. This obligation of godliness is acknowledged by the universal sentiment of mankind; but as a Christian grace it has some blessed peculiarities. It is gratitude for all the benefits of divine Providence, especially for the

general and personal gifts of redemption. The very term most in use shows this; it is *charis*, which is the grace of God in Christ, operating in the soul of the believer as a principle and going back to Him in gratitude: "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (2 Cor. 9:15). The ethical gratitude of Christianity connects every good gift and every perfect gift with the gift of Christ. Moreover, it is a thanksgiving that in the Christian economy, and in it alone, redounds to God for all things: *in everything give thanks*. This characteristic flows from the former. The rejoicing that we have in the Lord, and the everlasting consolation we possess in Him, makes every possible variety of divine dispensation a token for good. The Christian privilege is to find reason for gratitude in all things: "for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thes. 5:18).

**United States Congress** (September 25, 1789), unanimously approved a resolution asking President George Washington to proclaim a National Day of Public Thanksgiving and Prayer:

Friday, September 25, [1789]. Day of Thanksgiving. Resolved. That a joint committee of both Houses be directed to wait upon the President of the United States to request that he recommend to the people of the United States a day of public Thanksgiving and Prayer, to be observed by acknowledging, with grateful hearts, the many signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a constitution of government for their safety and happiness.

The Journals of Congress, documenting the discussions of Congress regarding this proclamation, recorded the comments of Mr. Roger Sherman of Connecticut:

Mr. Sherman justified the practice of Thanksgiving, on any signal event, not only as a laudable one in itself, but as warranted by a number of precedents in Holy Writ: for instance, the solemn thanksgivings and rejoicings which took place in the time of Solomon, after the building of the temple, was a case in point. This example, he thought, worthy of Christian imitation on the present occasion.

On October 3, 1789, from the city of New York, President George Washington issued a Proclamation of a National Day of Thanksgiving:

*Whereas it is the duty of all to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor ..*

*Whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me "to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness."*

*Therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the twenty-sixth day of November next, to be devoted by the People of these United States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be.*

*That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks, for His kind care and protection of the People of this*

*country pervious to their becoming a Nation, for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of His Providence, which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war, for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed, for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted, for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge and in general for all the great and various favors which He hath been pleased to confer upon us.*

*And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations, and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions, to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually, to render our national government a blessing to all the People, by constantly being a government of wise, just and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed, to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shown kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord, to promote the knowledge and practice of the true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and Us, and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best.*

*Given under my hand, at the city of New York, the 3rd of October, A.D. 1789.*

*George Washington*

### **BIBLE VERSES FOR THANKSGIVING**

Read Scripture on why we should give thanks and how to express gratitude. You can find many instances in the Bible that talk about giving thanks to God and Jesus for all the blessings they provide us. It's so easy during the holiday season to be overwhelmed with all the tasks and activities to do. We often forget to stop and reflect on why we should be celebrating. Forget the food, forget the decorations, forget the shopping and read these Bible verses to meditate on all the ways God blesses us! Share these Scriptures with your family and friends this Thanksgiving to help bring peace and joy to a season that is normally run by anxiety and stress!

1 Chronicles 16:8 - *Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!*

1 Chronicles 16:34 - *Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!*

1 Chronicles 16:35 - *Save us, O God of our salvation, and gather and deliver us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise.*

2 Chronicles 5:13 - The trumpeters and musicians joined in unison to give praise and thanks to the LORD. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, the singers raised their voices in praise to the LORD and sang: "He is good; his love endures forever." Then the temple of the LORD was filled with the cloud,

Nehemiah 12:46-47 - For long ago, in the days of David and Asaph, there had been directors for the musicians and for the songs of praise and thanksgiving to God. <sup>47</sup> So in the days of Zerubbabel and of Nehemiah, all Israel contributed the daily portions for the musicians and the gatekeepers. They also set aside the portion for the other Levites, and the Levites set aside the portion for the descendants of Aaron.

Psalms 7:17 - I will give to the LORD the thanks due to his righteousness, and I will sing praise to the name of the LORD, the Most High.

Psalms 9:1 - I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.

Psalms 69:30 - I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving.

Psalms 26:6-7 - I wash my hands in innocence and go around your altar, O LORD, proclaiming thanksgiving aloud, and telling.

Psalms 28:7 - The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.

Psalms 31:19-20 - How abundant are the good things that you have stored up for those who fear you, that you bestow in the sight of all, on those who take refuge in you. In the shelter of your presence you hide them from all human intrigues; you keep them safe in your dwelling from accusing tongues.

Psalms 50:23 - The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!

Psalms 95:1-6 - O Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. For the LORD is a great God, And a great King above all gods, In whose hand are the depths of the earth; The peaks of the mountains are His also. The sea is His, for it was He who made it; And His hands formed the dry land. Come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker

Psalms 100:4 - Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

Psalms 103:2-5 - Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Psalms 106:1 - Praise the LORD. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Psalms 107:8-9 - Let them give thanks to the LORD for his un failing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, <sup>9</sup> for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

Psalms 107:22 - And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, and tell of his deeds in songs of joy!

Psalms 116:17 - I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.

Psalms 136:1-3 - Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. Give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever. Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever;

Psalm 145:1-7 - *I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. <sup>2</sup> Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever. <sup>3</sup> Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. <sup>4</sup> One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. <sup>5</sup> They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—and I will meditate on your wonderful works. <sup>6</sup> They tell of the power of your awesome works—and I will proclaim your great deeds. <sup>7</sup> They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.*

Psalm 147:7 - *Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre!*

Isaiah 12:1 - *You will say in that day: “I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me.*

Isaiah 12:4 - *In that day you will say: “Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted.*

Jeremiah 30:19 - *Out of them shall come songs of thanksgiving, and the voices of those who celebrate. I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will make them honored, and they shall not be small.*

Jeremiah 33:11 - *Give thanks to the LORD of hosts, for the LORD is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!*

Daniel 2:23 - *To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for you have given me wisdom and might, and have now made known to me what we asked of you, for you have made known to us the king’s matter.*

Amos 4:5 - *Offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving of that which is leavened, and proclaim freewill offerings, publish them; for so you love to do, O people of Israel!” declares the Lord GOD.*

Jonah 2:9 - *But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the LORD!*

1 Corinthians 1:4-5 - *I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. <sup>5</sup> For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge*

2 Corinthians 4:15-16 - *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. <sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.*

2 Corinthians 9:11-12 - *You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. <sup>12</sup> This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.*

Ephesians 1:15-16 - *For this reason, since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, <sup>16</sup> I have not stopped giving thanks for you in my prayers.*

Ephesians 2:8-9 - *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

Ephesians 5:4 - *Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.*

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. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Colossians 2:7 – *Be rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.*

Colossians 3:15-17 - *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

Colossians 4:2 - *Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.*

1 Thessalonians 5:18 - *Give thanks in all circumstances; this is the will of God in Christ for you.*

1 Timothy 4:4-5 - *For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, <sup>5</sup> because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.*

James 1:16-18 - *Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.*

Revelation 7:12 - *“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”*

Revelation 11:17 - *We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign.*

### **The Fellowship Offering**

<sup>11</sup> *“These are the regulations for the fellowship offering anyone may present to the LORD: <sup>12</sup> “If they offer it as an expression of thankfulness, then along with this thank offering they are to offer thick loaves made without yeast and with olive oil mixed in, thin loaves made without yeast and brushed with oil, and thick loaves of the finest flour well-kneaded and with oil mixed in. <sup>13</sup> Along with their fellowship offering of thanksgiving they are to present an offering with thick loaves of bread made with yeast. (Lev 7:11-13)*

<sup>18</sup> *Give thanks in all circumstances; this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 The. 5:18)*

### **Spiritual Fullness in Christ**

<sup>6</sup> *Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. (Col 2:6)*

<sup>22</sup> *When you sacrifice a thank offering to the LORD, sacrifice it in such a way that it will be accepted on your behalf. (Lev 22:29)*

<sup>30</sup> *They were also to stand every morning to thank and praise the LORD. They were to do the same in the evening. (1Ch 23:30)*

<sup>23</sup> *Who sacrifice thank offerings honor me, and to the blameless I will show my salvation.” (Psa 50:23)*

<sup>12</sup> *I am under vows to you, my God; I will present my thank offerings to you. (Psa 56:12)*

<sup>22</sup> *Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of his works with songs of joy. (Psa 107:22)*

<sup>11</sup> *The sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of bride and bridegroom, and the voices of those who bring thank offerings to the house of the LORD, saying, “Give thanks to the LORD Almighty, for the LORD is good; his love endures forever.” For I will restore the fortunes of the land as they were before,’ says the LORD. (Jer 33:11)*

*<sup>8</sup>I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you. (Rom 1:8)*

*<sup>3</sup>We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, (Col 1:3)*

*<sup>13</sup>And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe. (1Th 2:13)*

*<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? (1Th 3:9)*

*<sup>3</sup>We ought always to thank God for you, ...and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. (2Th 1:3)*

*<sup>13</sup>But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as first fruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. (2Th 2:13)*

*<sup>12</sup>I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. (1Ti 1:12)*

*<sup>3</sup>I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. (2Ti 1:3)*

*<sup>4</sup>I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, (Phm 1:4)*

## **CHRISTIAN THANKSGIVING QUOTES**

### **A Day for Thanksgiving**

"To all ye Pilgrims:

In as much as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest of Indian corn, wheat, peas, beans, squashes, and garden vegetable, and has made the forests to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and in as much as he has protected us from the ravages of the savages, has spared us from pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience;

"Now I, your magistrate, do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with your wives and ye little ones, do gather at ye meeting house, on ye hill, between the hours of 9 and 12 in the day time, on Thursday, November ye 29th, of the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and twenty-three, and the third year since ye Pilgrims landed on ye Pilgrim Rock, there to listen to ye pastor and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings. William Bradford, Ye Governor of Ye Colony."

--William Bradford (1590-1657), Pilgrim father and second governor of Plymouth colony.

### **Thankfulness for Both Good and Bad**

"My God, I have never thanked Thee for my 'thorn!' I have thanked Thee a thousand times for my roses, but never once for my 'thorn;' I have been looking forward to a world where I shall get compensation for my cross as itself a present glory. Teach me the glory of my cross; teach me the value of my 'thorn.' Show me that I have climbed to Thee by the path of pain. Show me that my tears have made my rainbow."

--George Matheson, (1842–1906) Scottish writer and minister.

"We ought to give thanks for all fortune: if it is good, because it is good, if bad, because it works in us patience, humility and the contempt of this world and the hope of our eternal country."

--C.S. Lewis (1898-1963), Novelist, poet and Christian apologist.

"The Lord afflicts us at times; but it is always a thousand times less than we deserve, and much less than many of our fellow-creatures are suffering around us. Let us therefore pray for grace to be humble, thankful, and patient." --John Newton (1725-1807), slave ship master turned minister.

"The best helps to growth in grace are the ill usage, the affronts, and the losses which befall us. We should receive them with all thankfulness, as preferable to all others, were it only on this account, that our will has no part therein." --John Wesley (1703-1791), Co-founder of Methodism.

### **Thankfulness in Prayer**

"Let us thank God heartily as often as we pray that we have His Spirit in us to teach us to pray. Thanksgiving will draw our hearts out to God and keep us engaged with Him; it will take our attention from ourselves and give the Spirit room in our hearts."--Andrew Murray (1828-1917), Missionary.

"The prayer that begins with trustfulness, and passes on into waiting, will always end in thankfulness, triumph, and praise." --Alexander MacLaren (1826-1910), Minister of Great Britain.

### **Thankfulness in Worship**

"Gratitude is an offering precious in the sight of God, and it is one that the poorest of us can make and be not poorer but richer for having made it."--A.W. Tozer (1897-1963), Christian author/pastor.

"The Lord has given us a table at which to feast, not an altar on which a victim is to be offered; He has not consecrated priests to make sacrifice, but servants to distribute the sacred feast." --John Calvin (1509-1564), French theologian and major church reformer.

"The height of devotion is reached when reverence and contemplation produce passionate worship, which in turn breaks forth in thanksgiving and praise in word and song." --R. Kent Hughes, American church planter, pastor, author, Bible commentator.

### **Thankfulness of Heart and Mind**

"Pride slays thanksgiving, but a humble mind is the soil out of which thanks naturally grow." --Henry Ward Beecher (1813-1887), American pastor, reformer, and abolitionist.

"A thankful heart is one of the primary identifying characteristics of a believer. It stands in stark contrast to pride, selfishness, and worry. And it helps fortify the believer's trust in the Lord and reliance of His provision, even in the toughest times. No matter how choppy the seas become, a believer's heart is buoyed by constant praise and gratefulness to the Lord." --John MacArthur, American pastor, teacher, speaker, author.

"I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought, and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder." --G.K. Chesterton (1874-1936), English writer, journalist and Christian apologist.

"A state of mind that sees God in everything is evidence of growth in grace and a thankful heart." --Charles Finney (1792-1875), Presbyterian minister, evangelist, abolitionist, Father of American Revivalism.

"A sensible thanksgiving for mercies received is a mighty prayer in the Spirit of God. It prevails with Him unspeakably." ~ John Bunyan

"We would worry less if we praised more. Thanksgiving is the enemy of discontent and dissatisfaction." ~ Harry Ironside

"That action is not warrantable which either fears to ask the divine blessing on its performance, or having succeeded, does not come with thanksgiving to God for its success." ~ Francis Quarles

"We ought to shout out our thanksgiving as if every war were over; as if there were no more big taxes; as if there were no sickness, no crime." ~ John R. Rice

“I preached on the righteousness of the law and the righteousness of faith. While I was speaking, several dropped down as dead and among the rest such a cry was heard of sinners groaning for the righteousness of faith that it almost drowned my voice. But many of these soon lifted up their heads with joy and broke out into thanksgiving, being assured they now had the desire of their soul – the forgiveness of their sins.” ~ John Wesley

## **THANKSGIVING PRAYERS**

### Prayers and Poems to Celebrate Thanksgiving Day

No matter in what language you speak, thanksgiving prayers are often written in the form of poems or songs. These ten thanksgiving prayers can be used around the dinner table this November or any time of the year. One of the beautiful things about the Thanksgiving holiday is that it gives us a specific time to reflect on the wonderful blessings we all enjoy. While we may not have as many things as other people have, we can all be thankful for friends and family who love us and the life God has given us.

Pray these favorite thanksgiving prayers and talk about your blessings over Thanksgiving dinner with your family and friends.

#### **Thanksgiving Prayer**

Heavenly Father, on Thanksgiving Day  
We bow our hearts to You and pray.  
We give You thanks for all You've done  
Especially for the gift of Jesus, Your Son.  
For beauty in nature, Your glory we see  
For joy and health, friends and family,  
For daily provision, Your mercy and care  
These are the blessings You graciously share.  
So today we offer this response of praise  
With a promise to follow You all of our days.

#### **A Thanksgiving Day Prayer**

Lord, so often times, as any other day  
When we sit down to our meal and pray  
We hurry along and make fast the blessing  
Thanks, amen. Now please pass the dressing  
We're slaves to the olfactory overload  
We must rush our prayer before the food gets cold  
But Lord, I'd like to take a few minute more  
To really give thanks to what I'm thankful for  
For my family, my health, a nice soft bed  
My friends, my freedom, a roof over my head  
I'm thankful right now to be surrounded by those  
Whose lives touch me more than they'll ever possibly know  
Thankful Lord, that You've blessed me beyond measure  
Thankful that in my heart lives life's greatest treasure  
That You, dear Jesus, reside in that place  
And I'm ever so grateful for Your unending grace  
So please, heavenly Father, bless this food You've provided  
And bless each and every person invited  
Amen!

### **Thank You, Lord, for Everything**

Dear Lord, Thank you for the breathe to say  
Thank you for another day  
Thank you for the eyes to see the world of beauty surrounding me  
Thank you for the ears to hear your message of hope loud and clear  
Thank you for the hands to serve and far more blessings than I deserve  
Thank you for the legs to run the race of life until it's won  
Thank you for the voice to sing  
Thank you Lord for everything - Amen

### **Moravian Blessing**

Come, Lord Jesus, our guest to be  
And bless these gifts bestowed by Thee.  
And bless our loved ones everywhere,  
And keep them in Your loving care

### **We Give Thanks For Thanksgiving Day**

Our Father in Heaven,  
We give thanks for the pleasure  
Of gathering together for this occasion.  
We give thanks for this food prepared by loving hands.  
We give thanks for life,  
The freedom to enjoy it all  
And all other blessings.  
As we partake of this food,  
We pray for health and strength  
To carry on and try to live as You would have us.  
This we ask in the name of Christ, Our Heavenly Father.

## **SINGING THANKSGIVING SCRIPTURES**

What better way to praise and show thankfulness to the Lord then through song. The book of Psalms has some great verses that highlight the worship of God through singing. Do you have a favorite thanksgiving song? Life of Praise by Casting Crowns is a great one worship God with.

### **We Gather Together Hymn**

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;  
He chastens and hastens His will to make known.  
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.  
Sing praises to His Name; He forgets not His own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;  
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;  
Thou, Lord, were at our side, all glory be Thine!

We all do extol Thee, Thou Leader triumphant,  
And pray that Thou still our Defender will be.  
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;  
Thy Name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

## **SPEAKING PRAISE BIBLE PASSAGES**

Being in constant communication with God every day to show thankfulness and honor.

Psalm 34:1 - *I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.*

Jonah 2:9 - *But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving. That which I have vowed I will pay Salvation is from the LORD."*

Ephesians 5:3-4 - *But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks*

## **POWERFUL THANK YOU BIBLE QUOTES**

Exalt God for who He is and his amazing attributes. Focus on Glorifying Him for these.

### **For His Foundation is Firm**

Colossians 2:6-7 - *Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.*

### **For His Deeds**

1 Chronicles 16:8 – *Oh give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples.*

### **For His Power and Strength**

Psalm 107:29-32 – *He caused the storm to be still, So that the waves of the sea were hushed. Then they were glad because they were quiet; So He guided them to their desired haven. Let them give thanks to the LORD for His lovingkindness, And for His wonders to the sons of men! Let them extol Him also in the congregation of the people, And praise Him at the seat of the elders.*

## **CHRISTIAN THANKSGIVING QUOTES AND SAYINGS**

Here in the United States of America when we think of Thanksgiving holiday, we remember a time when William Bradford, the English separatist and the other Pilgrims arrived at Plymouth aboard the Mayflower to establish the first American Colony in 1620. Truly, it is great to study American history and recall the roots of our Thanksgiving holiday but did you know that Thanksgiving or some similar holiday is observed worldwide in at least eight nations? I have found that Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Japan, Korea, Liberia, Switzerland, and the United States of America all celebrate Thanksgiving!

As Christians we should have a heart of thanksgiving every day.

## **THANKSGIVING QUOTES AND SAYINGS.BY NATIONAL LEADERS**

- We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown. ~ Abraham Lincoln, at Thanksgiving time during the Civil War, 1863
- Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds. ~ Theodore Roosevelt, 1901
- As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them. ~ John Fitzgerald Kennedy
- Northern Ireland has known much pain and suffering. Now we are at the beginning of a new era of peace and prosperity. The creation of this place of thanksgiving is symbolic of a better tomorrow for us all. ~ Dr. Mo Mowlam, Secretary of State, Belfast, Northern Ireland

## **THANKSGIVING QUOTES BY PREACHERS & THEOLOGIANS**

- Thanksgiving is the language of heaven, and we had better start to learn it if we are not to be mere dumb aliens there.  
~ A. J. Gossip, Professor of Christian Ethics and Practical Theology at the University of Glasgow
- Foolish talking and jesting are not the ways in which Christian cheerfulness should express itself, but rather “giving of thanks” (Eph. 5:4). Religion is the source of joy and gladness, but its joy is expressed in a religious way, in thanksgiving and praise.  
~ Charles Hodge, principal of Princeton Theological Seminary
- Unto no duty are we more dull and untoward, than to the praise of God, and thanksgiving unto him; neither is there any duty whereunto there is more need that we should be stirred up.  
~ David Dickson (Dick), Scottish theologian
- We would worry less if praised more. Thanksgiving is the enemy of discontent and dissatisfaction.  
~ Harry Ironside, American preacher
- Pride slays thanksgiving, but a humble mind is the soil out of which thanks naturally grow.  
~ Henry Ward Beecher, American preacher and reformer
- The private and personal blessings we enjoy – the blessings of immunity, safeguard, liberty and integrity – deserve the thanksgiving of a whole life. ~ Jeremy Taylor, clergyman in the Church of England
- There should be a parallel between our supplications and our thanksgivings. We ought not to leap in prayer, and limp in praise. ~ Charles Haddon Spurgeon, English Baptist pastor and writer.
- If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, “thank you,” that would suffice.  
~ Meister Eckhart, German theologian
- Thou hast given so much to me, give one thing more, – a grateful heart; not thankful when it pleaseth me, as if Thy blessings had spare days, but such a heart whose pulse may be Thy praise.  
~ George Herbert, Welsh-born English poet
- Thanksgiving Day is a jewel, to set in the hearts of honest men; but be careful that you do not take the day, and leave out the gratitude.  
~ E.P. Powell, American author & journalist
- Gratitude is a quality similar to electricity: it must be produced and discharged and used up in order to exist at all.  
~ William Faulkner, American writer and Nobel Prize recipient

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