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O Give Thanks Unto The Lord (part 2)

Psalms 105:1, "O GIVE thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people."

In our last article (part 1), we put forth an effort to prove that a thankful perspective and disposition is: (1) Exemplified in scripture by the Lord and His saints, and (2) Is manifested in one who is living in the revealed will of God. In this effort, we will continue in Psalms 105 to find ways that a child of grace could "GIVE" thanks unto God for His marvelous grace and help.

When we consider the subject of thanksgiving, our minds naturally race toward the times when we sit at the table to eat. Every time our family sits down, Joshua or I will pray and give thanks to God for our food, and without belittling the importance of this effort of thanksgiving, I'm reminded by scripture that this is not the only way to give thanks unto God. According to Psalms 105, we give thanks unto God by:

(1) Making known His deeds among the people (vs 1)! The Lord has done so much for us. By His grace, He abides in us and we in Him (1 John 4:15). By an obedient life to our Savior's commandments, we show forth the grace which is in us. Paul exhorted the children of God to "work out" their salvation before others that they could be "lights in the world" (Philippians 2:12-15). In this effort of

obedience, the child of grace is, by their own actions, giving thanks unto God for His Amazing Grace.

(2) The words of our tongue (vs 2, "talk ye of all his wondrous works")! Over and over in scripture, the child of God is called upon to use their tongues for God's glory and NOT for evil. In Ephesians 4:29 Paul wrote, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth...", and James warned us to beware of the great damage this "little member" is capable of doing (James 3:5). If we are to give thanks unto God, our speech should be "alway with grace, seasoned with salt" (Col 4:6).

(3) Regular attendance in worship (vs 3, "Glory ye in his holy name")! In Revelation 1:10 we read of the time when John the Apostle was on the Isle of Patmos "for the word of God". The Apostle was placed upon this Island as a common criminal, being persecuted for his devotion and love for the Lord Jesus Christ. It would be difficult for me to believe that those who forced the Apostle to live on this island, would be so kind to furnish a calendar. Yet, without a calendar, John knew in vs 10 that it was the Lord's day. In his own mind, even while on this island, he knew it was the first day of the week (Sunday), the day the saints would gather together to worship Jesus Christ. I'm humbled and pricked in my heart by this verse in God's Holy Word. How this man would never forget, yet so many today do. Dear child of grace, if you desire to give thanks unto God, go to Church on Sunday morning!

(4) Seeking the Lord in all that we do (vs 4, "Seek the LORD, and his strength")! While living in this world, which is full of sin and sorrow, it is very easy for the child of grace to live by the toot of his/her own horn. By doing so, none are giving thanks to God for the wisdom that He has provided for us in His Word. But those who seek the Lord's will in their lives are acknowledging that He is greater than they. By doing so, they are, by their actions, saying "thank you God for your precious help and guidance." Solomon taught us in Proverbs 3:6, "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

(5) Constantly thinking and meditating on His marvelous works (vs 5, "Remember his marvelous works that he hath done")! One way that we are able to give thanks unto God, is by serving our brothers and sisters in this world. By us continually

remembering what God has done for us, we are motivated to do for others in this world. In Matthew 18:28-31 we read about a man who forgot the grace that was given to him. In forgetting, he failed to have mercy and charity towards his fellow servant. This man's actions may have been prevented by simply meditating and not forgetting about the mercy and grace which had been shown unto him. We should all pray daily that God would help us remember His mercy and grace, that we could be reminded of how we should "love our neighbour as thyself" (Matt 22:39), and in so doing, we will give thanks unto God every day of our lives. Amen!