

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a


A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK



Al Doomy - Asia

1. PRAISE - God continues to pour into OTAN like never before. We are now thriving in Nepal, Myanmar, Vietnam, China, and Russia (with a few other ministries I won't mention here!).
2. PRAISE - We praise the Lord that we have been able to oversee the planting of 68 new churches in Vietnam alone!
3. PRAY - I need wisdom and guidance as I make decisions with our team. These are unusual times and have reminded me that I can do nothing in my own strength, but need Christ to be alongside me at every turn.

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GROWTH GUIDE



Handout: 11/15/20

Study: 11/22/20

Stronger Together In Thankfulness

The next footsteps in the corridor, he knew, might be those of the guards taking him away to his execution. His only bed was the hard, cold stone floor of the dank, cramped prison cell. Not an hour passed when he was free from the constant irritation of the chains and the pain of the iron manacles cutting into his wrists and legs.

Separated from friends, unjustly accused, brutally treated—if ever a person had a right to complain, it was this man, languishing almost forgotten in a harsh Roman prison. But instead of complaints, his lips rang with words of praise and thanksgiving!

The man was the Apostle Paul—a man who had learned the meaning of true thanksgiving, even in the midst of great adversity. Earlier, when he had been imprisoned in Rome, Paul wrote, “Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 5:19-20, NIV).

Think of it: Always giving thanks for everything—no matter the circumstances! Thanksgiving for the Apostle Paul was not a once-a-year celebration, but a daily reality that changed his life and made him a joyful person in every situation.

Thanksgiving—the giving of thanks—to God for all His blessings should be one of the most distinctive marks of the believer in Jesus Christ. We must not allow a spirit of ingratitude to harden our heart and chill our relationship with God and with others.

Nothing turns us into bitter, selfish, dissatisfied people more quickly than an ungrateful heart. And nothing will do more to restore contentment and the joy of our salvation than a true spirit of thankfulness.

Ingratitude is a sin, just as surely as is lying or stealing or immorality or any other sin condemned by the Bible. One of the Bible’s indictments against rebellious humanity is that “although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him” (Romans 1:21, NIV). An ungrateful heart is a heart that is cold toward God and indifferent to His mercy and love. It is a heart that has forgotten how dependent we are on God for everything.

From one end of the Bible to the other, we are commanded to be thankful. In fact, thankfulness is the natural outflowing of a heart that is attuned to God. The psalmist declared, “Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving” (Psalm 147:7, NIV). Paul wrote, “Be thankful” (Colossians 3:15, NIV). A spirit of thanksgiving is always the mark of a joyous Christian.

Why should we be thankful? Because God has blessed us, and we should be thankful for each blessing.

Source: “How To Be Thankful In All Things” by Billy Graham

KEY VERSE

Ephesians 5:20 (NKJV)

“giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Ephesians 5:20

Introduction

1. What are you thankful for this Thanksgiving?
2. The article on the cover describes the situation that Paul was in when he wrote our key verse. Why do you think he was able to have such a thankful heart?

Tuesday: Ephesians 5:20a; Psalm 34:1; Psalm 35:18; Daniel 6:10

Give Thanks “Always”

3. What does it mean to give thanks “always” in your life?
4. What are some times when it may be difficult to give thanks?

Wednesday: Ephesians 5:20b; Job 1:21; I Thessalonians 5:18

Give Thanks For “All Things”

5. List some blessings that God has given you that you are thankful for.
6. Is it possible to be thankful for burdens in our lives? List some burdens you have faced and why you are thankful for them.

Thursday: Ephesians 5:20c; James 1:17a; Hebrews 13:15-16

Give Thanks “To God The Father”

7. James 1:17 tells us that every perfect gift comes down from the Father. What gifts has He given you?
8. Why is it sometimes easy to forget to give thanks to God?
9. How can you remember to give thanks to God?

Friday: Ephesians 5:20d; Hebrews 10:19-20; Romans 6:23

Give Thanks “In The Name Of Our Lord Jesus Christ”

10. Why does Jesus deserve your thanks and praise?
11. How has Jesus given you access to the Father in prayer?
12. How does a heart of thanksgiving contribute to unity in our church?