

GOD'S MAGNIFICENT IDEA
Part XIX
Colossians 4:2-6

Introduction: Gaining the inviolable, auspicious position of being called a man or woman *after God's own heart*, necessitates inculcating a Biblical technique of *thanking, praising and worshiping* God. David is a vanguard of the Bible's greatest example of a person who found the place called, "*a person after God's own heart.*" Extemporizing a relationship with God that gains His utmost approval involves drawing toward Him in an intimate way. To do this, we must be able to buck the resistance the flesh generates because it fears being restrained from satisfying itself. ^{1st} *John 2:15-16* in the Amplified states: "*Do not love or cherish the world or the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh [craving for sensual gratification] and the lust of the eyes [greedy longings of the mind] and the pride of life [assurance in one's own resources or the stability of earthly things] – these do not come from the Father but are from the world [itself].*" This is Scriptural proof that the flesh is opposed to your drawing close to God.

I. God's magnificent idea

- A. Thanksgiving. The meaning and purpose of thanksgiving relates to God's deeds, what He has done.
1. Thanksgiving may be silent or private, something done in one's heart.
 2. In the New Testament, the Greek word for thanks is the word *charis*. This is the root word from which "*charismatic*" comes and is related to the word for grace.
 3. We must give thanks! ^{1st} *Thessalonians 5:16-19*. This is the will of God for us. Without this, we are out of the will of God. Note that it says "*in everything*" and not "*for everything.*"
 4. God wants you to succeed. ^{1st} *John 3:8*. How does the devil work? *John 10:10*. The devil steals, kills, and destroys. We can oblige Paul's command to thank God "in" everything this way. We give thanks *in* the midst of disease by saying "*by His stripes we are healed.*" ^{1st} *Peter 2:24*. "*I give thanks that He took my infirmities, and bare my sickness.*" *Matthew 8:17*. "*I give thanks according to Exodus 15:26, 'I am the god who heals you.'*"
 5. The simple principle is that we give thanks for the Word of God. We don't give thanks for the things that have us bound, we give thanks that we don't have to remain bound. It is the Word of God that sets us free, and our thanksgiving uplifts the power of that Word in our lives. This gets our faith moving and prepares us for the miracle-working power of God.
 6. *Ephesians 5:17-20* teaches us how to fulfill the will of God. One of the manifestations of being filled with the Holy Spirit is giving thanks to God.
 7. David was very sensitive to thank God. *Psalms 100:1-5* is a perfect example. In *verse 5*, we are told *why* we should thank the Lord.
 8. Paul, in his teaching to the *Philippians* in chapter *4:6-7*, gives us instructions on *how* to pray. He ends up by saying this "...*will guard (Greek – phouresei, garrison, look out for like a sentinel) your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*" Notice the relationship between supplication and thanksgiving. Supplication simply means to make a prayer request. Paul, here, makes it clear that this kind of prayer must be preceded by thanksgiving.
 9. Thanksgiving must permeate all that we do. We are never to ask God for anything before thanking Him for what He has already done. When we remember to thank Him for what He has done in the past, it increases our faith in what He can do for us now. Thanksgiving is a preliminary step to great faith.
 10. Thanksgiving helps us not to focus on the problem, but to thank Him for the solution that is going to come. The devil will try to hold you back by getting you to dwell on the negative. Thanksgiving shows our confidence in God that He is going to see us through successfully.

Conclusion: I believe thanksgiving triggers miracles. When Andrew found a little boy with five loaves and two fishes, he brought the food to Jesus. Jesus took the loaves and, after giving thanks, He gave the food to His disciples to give to the people. This led to an immediate miracle that provided food enough to feed at least five thousand people.