

**Philippians 4:6-7, 12-13, 19
2011**

Thanksgiving of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Nov.20,

**John 6:8-14
Sunday)**

(Thanksgiving

I thank God for thanksgiving season granted to us this year. The spirit of thanksgiving is to restore as well as remember what God has done in our lives and give thanks to Him with the grateful heart and thankful mind: “Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever” (Psalm 106:1).

Gratitude is the core spirit of Christian life as well as the secret of happiness. Gratitude begins out of the right relationship with others as well as with God through our Lord Jesus Christ; genuine gratitude does not come from material possessions or external circumstances. The sense of gratitude is the state of our minds filled with contentment and joy.

The spirit of thanksgiving is to give thanks to God not only at the good time but also hard time. In the midst of trials or difficulties if we remember God and give thanks to Him, that is the true spirit of thanksgiving. For example, the Puritans offered their thanks to God in the midst of the extremely difficult circumstances. The early immigrants who came to this land gave thanks to God, although they faced many difficulties. Jesus also shows us many examples that he offers thanks and praise to His Heavenly Father God;

- **Thanksgiving in the midst of shortage(John 6:11)**
- **Thanksgiving in the midst of failure (Matthew 11:25)**
- **Thanksgiving in the midst of sorrow (John 11:41)**
- **Thanksgiving in the midst of sickness (Jeremiah 17:14)**
- **Thanksgiving in the midst of impending death (Luke 22:17)**

Thanksgiving in the midst of shortage - Jesus fed five thousand people with five loaves and two fish: “Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish”(John 6:11). Out of the sense of abundance, not the sense of scarcity.

Thanksgiving in the midst of sorrow- Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead: “So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me” (John 11:41).

Thanksgiving in the midst of impending death at the Last Supper – Jesus offered his body to God as a sacrifice of atonement: “After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, “Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes” (Luke 22:17).

Thanksgiving in the midst of sickness – Scripture tells lots of examples that offered praise to God during sickness:

“Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved; for you are my praise” (Jeremiah 17:14).

“Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, call them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing” (Isaiah 40:26).

“I will not bring upon you any of the diseases that I brought upon the Egyptians; for I am the LORD who heals you” (Exodus 15:26).

Prayer with Thanksgiving

“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus ” (Philippians 4:6-7).

“I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength” (Philippians 4:12-13).

The Life of Thanksgiving:

I am reminded of an ancient Chinese story about a man owned a horse. One day the horse ran away. The man’s friend said, “So sorry about your horse.”

The man said, “Bad news, good news, who knows?”

A few days later the horse came back with a herd of wild horses. The man’s friend said, “Wonderful!” The man said, “Good news, bad news, who knows?”

The next day one of the wild horses threw the man’s son and broke both legs of the son.

“How awful,” said the friends. “Bad news, good news, who knows?” the man said.

Later all of the village’s young men were called into war, but the son with the broken legs was excused. “Good news, bad news. Who knows?” the father said.

I hear echoes of Paul in this story. He refuses to be defined by the circumstances of his life. In fact, he has a kind of indifference, a holy indifference, as he writes to the Philippians: “In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need” (4:12). Paul knows who he is, and he refuses to be defined or overcome by externals.

A doctor who used to see a lot of depressed and unhappy patients used to prescribe a “thank-you” cure. He told his patients that for six weeks they had to say “Thank you” for every good thing that happened to them and keep a journal of the incident. The cure rate was remarkable. –healing medicine coming from God.

Be thankful for the smallest blessings, and you will deserve to receive greater. Value the least gifts no less than the greatest, and simple grace as especial favors. If you remember the dignity of the Giver, no gift will seem small or mean, for nothing can be valueless that is given by the MOST HIGH GOD -Thomas `a Kempis

I pray that you and I live grateful life with thankful mind each day, sustained by the strength of our Lord Jesus Christ. Happy Thanksgiving upon your home abundantly ! Amen.