

What happened to your grateful?

Two men were walking through a field one day when they spotted an angry bull. Instantly they darted toward the nearest fence. The enraged Bull followed in hot pursuit, and it was apparent they were not going to make it. Terrified, the one shouted to the other, "send up a prayer John." "I can't John said because I've never prayed out loud in public in my life." "but you have to said his friend." "All right John said I'll say the only prayer I know, the one my dad used to repeat at the table: oh Lord, for what we are about to receive, make us truly thankful."

I think possibly the greatest sin of the church in America is the failure to be grateful for the blessings that we have. **1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, "give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."** It seems to me that in the midst of a trial we miss our opportunity to be grateful. Being grateful reminds us of God's faithfulness and provision that he always provides.

Whatever the trial may be in your life here today at this very moment you have the unique opportunity to grow, and stretch your spiritual legs by giving thanks in the middle of your hardship. Give God the chance to come through for you instead of complaining and grumbling about what you do not have "give thanks to God in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Romans 1:21 "for all though they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish heart were darkened."

2 Timothy 3:1-5 1 "But Mark this, there will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them. "

When people become unthankful, they also become unholy! Because they forget where blessings come from and they become wise in their own eyes. I believe the primary sin that has caused the backslidden condition of the people in America is

the sin of thanklessness! We have become an unthankful nation. We are only concerned about what we didn't get and what we deserve and what is due us. We count hardships as God not doing his job or not paying enough attention to us. We become spoiled children in the process. We become children crying over our parents telling us no to ice cream while we have a candy bar in both hands.

It's in the midst of crushing defeat and insurmountable disappointment that we must deliberately choose to bless the name of the Lord, and to press in to him and trust him for our peace, our joy, our provision, and our rest. We've got to learn to say in the midst of our pain, give thanks to the Lord for he is good for his love endures forever.

People who are not thankful will never serve with the same fervor as those who remember where they were when God found them, saved them, and changed them forever. Remember the story of Mary Magdalene? Jesus cast out seven Devils from her. Do you realize that she was the last to stay at the tomb of Jesus and was the first to show up on Resurrection day?

Think about the Samaritan leper who returned to say thank you while the others did not.

If God has come through for you recently then give God some glory and be grateful for his faithfulness. Don't miss an opportunity to not only praise God but to tell of his faithfulness. Don't Hide it, share it with all those who will listen and give all the credit and all the glory and all the honor and all the praise to the faithful son of God, Jesus Christ himself.