



There Is Power In Giving Thanks | Pastor Ben Hodges
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There is power in feeling thankful. There is more power in giving thanks.

Acts 4: 36-37 Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.

Bar-nabas = Son of Encouragement

Encourage in Greek = Parakaleo (para= near or beside, kaleo = to call)

Acts 9:26-30

When he [Saul] came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. 28 So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. 29 He talked and debated with the Hellenistic Jews, but they tried to kill him. 30 When the believers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

Acts 11: 19 -26

Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews. 20 Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. 21 The Lord’s hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. 22 News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. 24 He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. 25 Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26 and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

Barnabas saw the grace of God at work, and was glad.

Acts 11:23 When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.

Being glad = Encouraging other, not just feeling glad yourself

How the Apostle Paul Gave Thanks And Encouraged:

- **Romans 1:8** First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you.
- **1 Corinthians 1:4** I thank my God for always concerning you.
- **Philippians 1:3–5** I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now.
- **Colossians 1:3** We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you.
- **1 Thessalonians 1:2–3** We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.
- **1 Thessalonians 2:19–20** For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For you are our glory and joy.
- **1 Thessalonians 3:9–10** For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God, night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith?
- **2 Thessalonians 1:3** We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other.
- **2 Thessalonians 2:13** But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you.
- **2 Timothy 1:3–4** I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy.
- **Philemon 1:4–5** I thank my God, making mention of you always in my prayers, hearing of your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints.

Expressing thanks to God for someone is a power force for good in their lives and in yours.

This Thanksgiving, take time to think, then express, your gratitude to God for His grace at work in the people you love.

It may feel weird at first, as all first things can, but it will be meaningful, especially over time.

Give thanks and see courage rise up in your home.