

Gratitude – Communion with God

I want you to see the simple pathway out of all your troubles (separation from the goodness of God) and give you a daily tool to defeat even the greatest of problems.

I. What if Normal Isn't Normal?

If you knew that **something everyone considers normal** was actually **destroying you** and robbing you of the promises of God, would you want to go on being “normal?”

The Abundant Life IS Available to You!

John 10.9 I am the **door**... 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. **I came that they may have life** and have it **abundantly**.

Περὶσσοῦς — Exceptional, outstanding, remarkable, unusual. Considerably more than what one would expect, causing a distinct advantage.

II. The Gates, Doors, and Windows of Heaven are Voice Activated!

Ps 100.4 Enter his **gates with thanksgiving,**
and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!
5 For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

BECOME A CHAMPION OF THANKSGIVING!

1. Avoid all whining, complaining, needless crying, sadness and despair **as if it were the Bubonic Plague!**
2. Focus on the Kindnesses we receive.

A SIMPLE NOTEBOOK of every blessing and kindness that occurs during your day can set you free!

Changes your prayers from ASKING to THANKING

Transforms your heart from sullen to grateful, from slave to son!

Opens the gates, doors and windows of Heaven

Rom 2.4 NIV Do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that **God's kindness leads you toward repentance?**

This is the BEST THING to which you've ever applied yourself!

A. The Dangers of Complaining

1. Complaining Questions the Goodness of God

My complaints are **accusations** against the goodness of God. They actually declare that I deserve more than I've been getting.

2. Is the Lord with me? Question of Faithfulness

Exod 17.7 ESV ... they tested the LORD by saying, "**Is the LORD among us or not?**"

As soon as they asked that, AMALEK comes to destroy them (Agag, Haman)

B. Thanksgiving – Gateway to Victory

2 Chr 20.2 After this ... 2 Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, "**A great multitude** is coming against you ... 3 Then Jehoshaphat was **afraid** and **set his face to seek the LORD**, and **proclaimed a fast** throughout all Judah. ...

HUGE THREAT – Desperate Measures

2 Chr 20.14 ESV And the Spirit of the LORD came upon **Jahaziel** ...

15 And he said, “Listen, ... ‘Do not be afraid ... the battle is not yours but God’s. 17 You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, ... Tomorrow go out against them, and the LORD will be with you.”

THE NECESSITY OF AMEN

2 Chr 20.20 ESV And they rose early in the morning ... And when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Hear me, Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in the LORD your God, and you will be established; believe his prophets, and you will succeed.”

Succeed (tzalach) to prosper, succeed, thrive, to accomplish what is intended.

2 Cor 1.20 ESV For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

C. What We Say, What We See:

HOLINESS LOOKS BEAUTIFUL

2 Chr 20.21 NKJ And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed

those who should sing to the LORD,
and who should praise the beauty of holiness,
as they went out before the army and were saying:

“Praise (ESV,NIV Give thanks) the LORD,

For His mercy endures forever.”

In our singing and celebration of the Lord we CONNECT to His GOODNESS and his UNENDING love.

It’s simple and it’s the opposite of the complaint, “Is the Lord with us?”

2 Chr 20.22 ESV And when they began to sing and praise, the LORD set an ambush ...

URNS OUT -> ALL THEY SAW WAS THE ENEMY DEFEATED

FOCUS: Never forget any kindness that we have received!

Gratitude connects us with the goodness of God.

Deut 30.19 ESV I call heaven and earth to witness ... that I
have set before you life and death, blessing and curse.
Therefore **choose life**, that you and your offspring may
live,." Prov 18.21...in the power of the tongue,

He leads us on the path we choose! Choose gratitude!

III. Structures of Thanksgiving

David – Tabernacle (based on David's NOTEBOOK)

- 1 Chr 16.1 NKJ So they brought the ark of God, and set it in
the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. ...
- 4 And he appointed some of the Levites to minister before the
ark of the LORD, to commemorate, to **thank**, and to praise
the LORD God of Israel:
- 7 On that day David first delivered *this psalm* into the hand of
Asaph and his brethren, to **thank** the LORD:
- 8 Oh, give **thanks** to the LORD!
Call upon His name;
Make known His deeds among the peoples!
- 31 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
And let them say among the nations, "The LORD
reigns."
- 34 Oh, give **thanks** to the LORD, **for He is good!**
For His mercy endures forever.
- 35 And say, "**Save** us, O God of our salvation;
Gather us together, and **deliver** us from the Gentiles,
To give **thanks** to Your holy name,
To triumph in Your praise."

Solomon - Temple (David's Gratitude --> Solomon Unparalleled ABUNDANT LIFE)

2 Chr 5.13 NKJ indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers *were* as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and **thanking** the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, *saying*:

*"For He is **good**,
For His **mercy endures forever**,"* that the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud,

Jesus - Human and Divine Communion

John 6.10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. 11 Jesus then took the loaves, and **when he had given thanks**, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, **as much as they wanted**.

IV. Covenant of Goodness & Gratitude

Partaking Divine Nature (COMMUNION)

Luke 22.19 And he took bread, and **when he had given thanks**, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is **given for you**. Do this in remembrance of me." 20 And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is **poured out for you** is the new covenant in my blood.

Everything I am, I give **for you**. All my life, I pour out for you!
Everytime you do this, I want it to come back into your memory, I want you to touch my love once more

I am **good** My **steadfast love endures forever!**

I am **with you ALWAYS**

2 Pet 1.3 ...granted to us **all things** that pertain to life and godliness, ... **called us** to his own glory and excellence, 4 ... granted to us his **precious** and **very great promises**, so that **through them** you may become **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

partake in... participate, take part, engage, join in, enter into, get involved in, share in, contribute to, play a part in, have a hand in, sit in on. ANTONYMS be excluded from, sit out.

partake of... consume, have, eat, drink, take, ingest, devour;
ANTONYMS forgo, abstain from.

partakes of ... have the qualities/attributes of, suggest, evoke, manifest

Prayer for Partaking!

Thanksgiving! No whining, no complaining, no needless tears!

Rom 15.13 NIV May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit