

Prayer: Supernatural Contact Seventh: Thanksgiving

Philippians 4:6

Thank you for joining me once again for “It’s a Good Life.” We continue our study today in supernatural contact, and that’s prayer. This will be study number seven in our series of Prayer: Supernatural Contact.

Let me remind you that you can receive a transcript of this program and other programs of “It’s a Good Life” by simply going to our website and downloading those transcripts, www.LRWM.org. You can also write to me, Lewis Woodward, 497 Judith Avenue, Fruitland Park, FL 34731. And I’ll be glad to send to you free of charge a transcript of this program and other programs of “It’s a Good Life.”

Today, study number seven in our subject, supernatural contact, prayer. Now, we’ve looked at several subjects under this heading of prayer. We’ve looked at praise, confession, waiting, Scripture praying, intercession supplication, and last time, number six, was personal needs. We need to pray for personal needs in our private time with the Lord. Some would feel that praying for a personal need is being selfish, but not so. God expects us to ask Him for things.

Now, I’m not telling you that you need to go to God for every little thing that you have need of. Well, if you have a need, you need to go to Him, but I’m not talking about frivolous things. I’m not talking about something that you don’t need. I’m speaking of those things that you are in need of. And I would submit to you today that perfect prayer is praying that God will be glorified in the answered prayer. That should be our heart’s desire today to see that God is glorified in our prayer life for things that we ask for, for praising Him, for giving Him thanks, and that is the title of our subject today, thanksgiving.

Philippians 4:6 says, *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.* Now, at this point in our prayer life, it is important to thank God. Well, what’s the difference between thanksgiving and praise? Remember, we started our subject, our lesson, off here, the number one step was praise. Well, what’s the difference between thanksgiving and praise?

I believe that praise is pouring out of the heart in adoration to God for who He is. Romans chapter 5, verses 7 through 9, says, ⁷*For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.* ⁸*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.* ⁹*Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.*

We need to praise God for who He is and what He’s done for us. We need to praise God because He sent His only begotten Son into this world to die for sinners. Paul the apostle said that he was chief of sinners, but, you know, I feel that way. I feel that I am not worthy to be saved, and if it were not for God’s mercy, I wouldn’t be saved. I don’t want justice. I want mercy, the mercy of God. And only God can save that lost soul, and that lost soul needs to come to God today and say, “Lord, forgive me. I receive Jesus as my Savior right now.” And do you know, that is the highest praise that man can give God, is receiving His Son Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Well, praise is pouring out of the heart in adoration to God for who He is. Thanksgiving is for what God has done. In I John 3:1, it says, *Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore*

the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. We need to be thankful today that God loved us so much He sent His Son, and then we need to understand that it was that manner of love that the Father bestowed upon us that we could now be called the sons of God because we received Jesus as our Savior.

Thanksgiving is also for what God will do in the future, not only for what He has done in the past by saving us, but what He will do in the future. First Corinthians 15:57 talks about this. It says, *But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.* We are promised victory, and we look to that, thankful to God that He has promised to give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Second Corinthians 2:14 says, *Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.*

Colossians 1:12 says, *Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.* An inheritance is something that is in the future, and we look forward to that as saved people, but it's as good as already taken place through God's promises. In Titus 2:13, it says, *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.*

Yes, we should not only be thankful for what God has done in our life, but we need to be thanking God for what He's going to do in the future. We should give thanks to God for what awaits us. Now, this has to do with the future, as well. First Corinthians 2:9 says, *But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.* The heart of man is that natural person, that person who has never trusted Jesus Christ. Man, the unspiritual, or the unsaved person cannot ever understand what God has prepared for them who love Him. But that person who loves God today who has asked Jesus

into the heart, that person can get a glimpse of glory, can see what lies ahead somewhat. We don't know everything yet. We don't know exactly what awaits us, but we know that it's by the shed blood of Jesus Christ that we have the promise of God, that those things that await us are beyond description of any man's vocabulary.

Well, we need to thank God for what He has done in the area of spiritual blessings, as well. First Corinthians 15:57, it says, *But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.* Ephesians 1:3 says, *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings and heavenly places in Christ.* Galatians 3:8 says, *And the scripture foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith preached before the gospel unto Abraham saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.* And James 1:17 says, *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.* God never changes. His promises are sure, and we need to thank God for those spiritual blessings found in Jesus today.

We need to thank him for physical blessings. James 5:15 says, *And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he hath committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.* Now the word "save" here means to deliver. In other words, this person would be delivered from his illness. We need to pray in faith. Our prayer needs to be with thanksgiving. The prayer of faith shall save the sick or deliver that person.

I believe in prayer. I believe that prayer is the answer to our needs as saved people today. When we have problems in our lives, we need to go to the Lord in prayer. We need to go to Him, thanking Him for who He is. We need to thank God for our material possessions. Luke 6:38 says, *Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over,*

shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

God owns everything. We own nothing. We are simply using what God has allowed us to use while we are here on this earth in this physical body. Psalm 50:10 says, *For every beast of the forest is mine.... This is God speaking.... and the cattle upon a thousand hills.*

He can certainly answer our needs, can't He? Because He owns everything, and we need to be thanking Him today that He *does* own everything and that He has given us the privilege of using what He owns. We need to thank God for many things today, and I believe that one of the greatest things that we need to thank Him for is entrusting us with the Gospel.

First Peter 4:10 says, *As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.* Second Corinthians 5:20 says, *Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.* First Thessalonians 2:4 says, *But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.*

God has entrusted man today to spread the Gospel, the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ, how that He came to this earth. He shed His blood on the cross of Calvary. He died. He was buried, and He was resurrected on that third day, and He lives forever. And because He lives, we can live. We can trust Him as our Savior and He will take us to Heaven. Have you done that? Have you trusted the Lord as your Savior? Why not ask Him into your heart right now?

We should thank God. Why should we thank God? We should thank God because of the examples given in the Bible. We should thank God

because the Word speaks of being thankful. Psalm 95 and verse 2 says, *Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms.* There are many Scriptures that talk about being thankful. We should thank God because the Word speaks of being thankful.

Are you thankful today? Are you thankful that God has given you the breath of life? You are alive today only because God has given you that ability to breathe. God is the Creator. John 1:1 says, *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God, the Bible teaches us. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth* (John 1:14). And that's speaking, of course, of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Some believe they have attained everything on their own, according to II Timothy chapter 3, verses 1 and 2. You can attain nothing of this life on your own. Even the breath that you breathe is not on your own. It's because God has given you the ability to breathe.

Are you thankful today? Are you thankful for the Lord? Have you given Him thanks first of all by asking Him to come into your heart? If you have never trusted Him as your Savior, let me invite you to do so right now. Titus 3:5 says, *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.* That means to trust Jesus as your Savior. Ask Him to come into your heart and He'll save you.

Well, it's been good being with you today, and let me remind you that next week we will continue with our study of supernatural contact, prayer. Until this same time next week, may the Lord bless you richly is my prayer.