

# ABUNDANT THANKSGIVING

Abundant, personal thanksgiving must be my daily and consistent way of life.

## KEY POINTS

- ❖ Thanksgiving Day in Canada was instituted in 1957 to be observed on the second Monday in October. Our Governor General at the time, the Right Honourable Vincent Massey, proclaimed it to be "A Day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed."
- ❖ Canada's harvest is indeed bountiful, and we are also easily able to acquire the foodstuffs we don't produce locally by virtue of the ships, trains and planes that bring our heart's desires to our supermarket shelves.
- ❖ We are so blessed that, according to CBC Marketplace, Canadians waste \$31 billion worth of food every year.
- ❖ In a world where food insecurity is a daily reality for so many people, we have a LOT to be thankful for!
- ❖ So, we want to follow David's instructions as recorded in 1 Chronicles 16: "Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is good!* For His mercy *endures forever*" (v. 34).
- ❖ In Ephesians 5, Paul gave similar instructions to the church in Ephesus, saying:
  - ...Do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (vv. 18-20)
- ❖ However, as is the case with most virtues, we do not magically become thankful. Thankfulness is a spiritual discipline/habit we need to cultivate and deliberately incorporate into our lives. We need to practice gratefulness.
- ❖ In 1729, a theologian and pastor by the name of William Law wrote a book entitled *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*. It was a powerful book that revolutionized and spiritually empowered a number of very influential people of his day.
- ❖ Among them was William Wilberforce who read the book as a 25-year-old and later devoted his political energies to ending the slave trade in England.
- ❖ Some of the statements from the book are instructive and very applicable to our focus on Thanksgiving. Like:
  - ...There is no state of mind so holy, so excellent, and so truly perfect, as that of thankfulness to God.... For as thankfulness is an express acknowledgment of the goodness of God towards you, so repinings and complaints are...plain accusations of God's [lack] of goodness towards you....
  - [Would] you know who is the greatest saint in the world? [It] is he who is always thankful to God...who receives everything as an instance of God's goodness, and has a heart always ready to praise God for it....
  - If anyone would tell you the shortest, surest way to all happiness, and all perfection, he must tell you to make a rule: ...thank and praise God for everything that happens to you....

## KEY SCRIPTURES:

1 Chronicles 16:1-4, 7-14, 23-29, 34-37, 41

- And for this reason I exhort you to this method in your devotion, that every day may be made a day of thanksgiving, and that the spirit of murmur and discontent may be unable to enter into the heart which is so often employed in singing the praises of God.
- ❖ The Book of Nehemiah records a pretty amazing thanksgiving service.
- ❖ When Cyrus the king of Persia decreed that the Israelites could return to Jerusalem and rebuild, Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah were the key leaders who took up the challenge over the years to get the job done.
- ❖ Zerubbabel rebuilt the Temple, then Nehemiah rebuilt the wall around the city at a record-setting pace of 52 days (Neh. 6:15). When construction had been completed, it was time to gather the people of the city together to dedicate the walls and thank God for His goodness to them. (See Neh. 12:1, 8, 24, 27, 31, 36-43.)
- ❖ This was a Thanksgiving Service for the ages!
- ❖ David and other psalmists had left them a lot of good material to work with (see Psalm 92:1-4; 95; 100; 103:1-5; 105:1-7; 136:1-3, 26), and the choirs and musicians set their hearts to praising and thanking God with everything they had.
- ❖ What an example to follow! Two enthusiastic choirs and musicians coordinated in their praise and thanksgiving to God, using their body, soul and spirit in worship.
- ❖ We also have the opportunity to offer abundant thanksgiving to God each and every single day of our lives.
- ❖ Thanksgiving is never out of fashion. And it will never be out of fashion as John the revelator reveals to us in his vision that is recorded in Revelation 7:9-12.
- ❖ Abundant personal thanksgiving to God needs to be our chosen way of life. Amen. So be it.

## DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Is there a person in your life that, whenever you think about them, you feel gratefulness towards them? What are the qualities they possess that make you feel this way? Call them, text them. Take the time to say "thank you."
2. When you think of God's blessings in your life, what are three things you are most grateful for? Take time to glorify the Lord and give thanks!

## PRAYER TIME

"Every day is a day of thanksgiving. God's been so good to me, every day He's blessing me!"  
I thank You, Lord, and glorify Your Holy Name!

# WEEK OF SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2020

## NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

- ✓ (Reminds me/Confirms)    💡 (New idea)    🤔 (Think about)
- ⚡ (Do this)    ❤️ (Speaks to my heart)    ↔ (Must share)

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## PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

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Go deeper with your Life Group family.  
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE  
WORD

Start-up: How does it make you feel when you do something for another person and they do not even say "thank you"?