

The Cause and Effect of Thankfulness / Church of the Open Bible / 11.22.15

For what are you most thankful?

Thankfulness Leads to Inner Peace.

Philippians 4.6-7 NET: Do not be anxious about anything. Instead, in every situation, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, tell your requests to God. And the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

“petition” = δέησις [DEH-ay-sis] in Greek = an _____ request for God to meet a need.

If we cultivate thankfulness even in the midst of adversity, we will experience inner _____, which will protect us by keeping us walking the “top line” by faith and obedience instead of seeking “bottom line” worldly solutions for coping.

We cultivate thankfulness by _____ on all our blessings from God.

Colossians 3.15-17 NET: Let the peace of Christ be in control in your heart (for you were in fact called as one body to this peace), and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and exhorting one another with all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, all with grace in your hearts to God. And whatever you do in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Sharing scriptural _____ and teachings together also helps us to cultivate thankfulness and peace. Focusing our minds on God’s truth, including reflection on our many blessings, will help us feel thankful and at peace inside. Wallowing in our troubles has the opposite effect.

Hope Leads to Thankfulness

Psalms 119.49-50 NET: Remember [O God] your word to your servant, for you have given me hope. This is what comforts me in my trouble, for your promise revives me.

God’s Word in scripture brings us _____, which comforts and revives us so we can feel thankful.

Romans 15.4 NET: For everything that was written in former times [in what we call the Old Testament] was written for our instruction, so that through endurance and through encouragement of the scriptures we may have hope.

We have to _____ in God’s Word and thus we will endure by God’s Word, feeling encouraged and more hopeful.

The Gospel Promise leads to Hope

1 Peter 1.3-6 NET: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he gave us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, that is, into an inheritance imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. It is reserved in heaven for you, who by God's power are protected through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. This brings you great joy, although you may have to suffer for a short time in various trials.

Even when suffering, we can have joy and hope because we have God's _____ promise, we have the promise of an eternal blessing and inheritance.

Our salvation and eternal inheritance is protected by _____ power, so no matter what we suffer in this life, we can know God has not stopped loving us, nor have we lost standing or salvation with him.

Romans 5.1-6 NET: Therefore, since we have been declared righteous by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in the hope of God's glory. Not only this, but we also rejoice in sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance, character, and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

Christ, the Son of God who came as the human savior Jesus, _____ on the cross and in that moment paid the penalty for our sins, so we could be forgiven to spend eternity with God instead of punished for our sins with eternity in Hell apart from God.

God is willing to declare us _____ in his sight, by allocating to us Christ's righteousness. This is an act of grace [a gift] for those of us who put our complete trust in God's offer of salvation through Christ.

Assured of our relationship with God and his unshakable salvation, we can have _____.

We can be Thankful and have Peace because we have Hope for Salvation.

Colossians 2.6-7 NET: Therefore, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and firm in your faith just as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

_____ in the gospel promise gives us hope even in our hard times, and that hope empowers us to be overflowing with thankfulness, and our thankfulness will give us a sense of inner peace.

What steps should you take in response to this sermon?