

Thanksgiving

Romans 12:1, James 1:17

President Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a federal holiday in 1863.

He called it a national day of :

“Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens”.

Thanksgiving day was set aside as a day when the God of heaven was praised, and given thanks for His mercies, His grace, His protection for His dear children.

In the midst of the Civil War!

This Thanksgiving day should serve as a reminder to give Praise and Thanks to our Merciful Father for His mercies, His grace, and His protection.

Romans 12:1

This isn't an order or a command.

Here the opportunity is for us to show our love for Him by choice.

If we are not ready to offer it in gratitude, God doesn't want our service.

I. THANK GOD FOR OUR PURPOSE (With a heart filled with gratitude!)

God has a purpose, a reason for our being alive today.

Have you thanked God for the gift of that purpose?

Do you know reason you were created?

When was the last time you thanked God for your purpose?

II. THANK GOD FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS (With a heart filled with gratitude!)

Lift each one up to the Lord in prayer.

Thank those who have been a blessing to you.

The most meaningful way to show our appreciation is to be a blessing to them.

III. THANK GOD FOR OUR FOOD (With a heart filled with gratitude!)

Matthew 6:11

IV. THANK GOD FOR OUR 5 SENSES (With a heart filled with gratitude!)

When was the last time you thanked God for the gift of:

A. **Sight:**

The beauty of Sunrise or Sunset; the world we live in; the eyes of one you love.

B. **Hearing:**

Think of the blessings of hearing. The beautiful music, voices of friends and loved ones.

C. **Taste:**

Some can't taste. Thank God for the mercy of giving us taste.

D. **Touch:**

What if we were unable to touch our spouse?

What about the softness of a baby?

Thank God for the mercy of having a sense of touch.

E. **Smell:**

How awful it would be to be unable to smell.

What if you couldn't smell a fire burning?

Thank God for smell.

V. THANK GOD FOR EVERY BLESSING (With a heart filled with gratitude!)

James 1:17 All good comes from God.

VI. THE APPEAL

Romans 12:1

Paul is calling for brothers and sisters in Christ to give their bodies to God because of all he has done for them.

The invitation is to Surrender our bodies is service to Him. (*With a heart filled with gratitude!*)

VII. GRATITUDE IS MEASURED BY SACRIFICE

God is never pleased with our seconds!!!

He wants the best.

James 2:14-18

Being thankful is more than simply saying "*Thank God for what he has done for ME.*"

It is gratitude to God for his character and faithfulness.