

GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 46, November 17, 2020 / Southside Baptist Church / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / **The Grow in Grace Newsletter is a WEEKLY Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church; and is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD JESUS CHRIST!"***

**Thanks- GIVING! Giving- THANKS!
Thanks- LIVING!**

[INTRO NOTE!] This newsletter will not seek to 're-invent the wheel'... We will take Bible-based teaching, greatly gleaned from others— AND PRESENT IT YET AGAIN! WHY? IT IS NEEDED— personally, I do not need SOMETHING NEW! I need to carefully listen to SOUND DOCTRINE and apply it in daily living!]

Thanks- GIVING— giving ourselves; being a good steward of unrighteous mammon; and giving unrighteous mammon to God!

"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. ***If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?"***- Luke 16:10-11. 1 Corinthians 4:2 says: *Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.*

What is the level of my thanksGIVING unto God!

Years back, **R.G. LeTourneau**, was a designer and manufacturer of heavy earth-moving equipment. His machinery transformed 5.000 acres of marshland into New York's Idlewild (now Kennedy)

Airport, tore open the wilderness for the Alaskan Highway, made airstrips for the landing of the first Allied fighter planes on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day, and cleared the debris from bombed-out European cities after World War II.

In the early years of his business, **LeTourneau went into partnership with God.** By this he did not lower grace to the level of a bargain. Rather he said, *"Because I believe that God wants businessmen as well as preachers to be His servants, I believe that a factory can be dedicated to His service as well as a church."*
[REALITY, whether you 'own the factory'... or work at the factory— it is a sacred 'place' in which to worship and to serve Christ!]

In 1935 he irrevocably assigned over 90 percent of the company's profits to the LeTourneau Foundation, described as a "not-for-profit corporation whose income and capital can be used only for the cause of Christ". (Moving Heaven and Earth, Donald Ackland, Iversen-Ford Associates, New York).

Countless Christian schools and organizations in America have been the recipients of his gift of giving. Scarcely a mission field exists in all five continents where some devoted worker has not been aided through money from this foundation. Altogether, many millions of dollars have been given to further the Lord's work.

LeTourneau's Testimony: MY LIFE VERSE— I have never been much of a preacher of tithing. My Life Verse has been Matthew 6:33, ***"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."***

MY PHILOSOPHY has been— We should serve God because we love, not because we are making a bargain with Him. Many

people say, IF I DO THIS FOR GOD will He also do something for me? That's not love, it's a bargain.

I often say, **if you love the LORD** you will serve Him; **and if you are not serving Him** it proves you don't love Him; **and if you don't love Him** it proves you don't know him!

MY MOTTO has been— Not how much of my money do I give unto the LORD but how much of God's money do I Keep for Myself!

THE APPLICATION— I hope you are now beginning to understand what I meant when I began by saying that I'm not much of a preacher of tithing. **If under the law** the people of God gave one-tenth to the LORD, shame on us, living under grace, if we don't do better. The tithe may be a place to begin if you are not now giving to the LORD, but it's no place to stop. You see what I mean?

If you get a vision of what our salvation cost, see Christ on the cross, the cruel nails in his hands and feet, the mocking crowd and the weight of our sin... paying the penalty for you and for me — **it will put your service and giving on a different plane.**

He gave himself willingly to give us salvation from sin. If this grips us, we can't help but love Him. We will say with the song writer— ***Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all!***

THE CONCLUSION— ONLY the grace of God can save us from a superficial declaration of love for God. **True love based on an understanding of God's grace and deep gratitude for the gift of salvation through our LORD Jesus Christ— these will settle the problem of "what should I give God"** because my thinking will be turned around to consider that all I am and have

belong to Him and I am a steward for Him while serving him in this life. *It's easy to sing, "Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold. Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise."*

Only God's grace in a life can make it come true. Man, selfishly inclined, can't do it in his own power— IT TAKES GOD'S POWER! [The above is from R. G. LeTourneau's autobiography, *Mover of Men and Mountains*.]

Giving THANKS and Thanks LIVING!

(First section of this article is drawn from ***Thank-You Therapy: The Cure For Anxiety***, by Don Baker]

[THERAPY: To nurse or to cure. GIVING THANKS and LIVING A LIFE OF THANKSGIVING 'NURSES' US TO SOUND MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL HEALTH' AS WELL AS GIVING PROPER HONOR TO GOD. **At the root of all the horrible sins set forth in Romans 1:18-32... IS A REFUSAL, (Romans 1:21) TO SUBMIT TO GOD and a refusal to BE THANKFUL!**]

"Be anxious for nothing, but **in everything** by prayer and supplication **with thanksgiving** let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

1. GIVING THANKS IS AN ACT OF FAITH!

The ultimate objective of our Heavenly Father is to bring us to a place of unwavering trust and confidence in Him. A promise from God **is** reality. It need not be visible or tangible. The promise need only to be from God to be real!

Giving Thanks is acting on the Word of God, in faith! **Giving Thanks** is anchored in one or more of God's promises, appropriate for the situation, and then praising Him for the coming fulfillment!

Thanks giving is Giving Thanks to God for the answer before it is received!

(Example: As in GIVING THANKS for all that AWAITS us in Christ for all eternity!) **Giving Thanks** is most powerful when we do it on the basis of God's promise rather than on the basis of the fulfillment of a petition.

2. GIVING THANKS IS AN ACT OF FAITH IN THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD!

HOW BLESSED WE ARE THAT GOD IS ABSOLUTELY SOVEREIGN! God in His good sovereignty **has the total freedom to do all of His good pleasure**. He does as He pleases and with whom He pleases and when He pleases.

Moreover, IN HIS SOVEREIGNTY, He has ordained "sowing and reaping." He even grants satan permission to "sift" us, as He did Peter;

or as He did Job. Often we do not have any idea what is going on — the deformity of a baby, the earthquake, the hurricane, the tornado, the gunman, CANCER, the drunk...and the list goes on and on!

BUT IN EVERYTHING let us Give Thanks, resting on God's good sovereignty!

Resting in God's SOVEREIGNTY enables us to **Give Thanks** to the One who has **brought and/or allowed** whatever it is that's the cause of our anxiety; and to know that He could have controlled or stopped it if He had so wished. And since He did not stop "it"...or since He allowed "it"— we rest in the reality that, **"Infinite Wisdom and Unchanging Love conspired with Almighty Power to cause something that's for His great glory and our ultimate good!"**

NOTE: Giving Thanks is not, "Praise God, the child is

deformed ... or Praise God, I have terminal cancer!" BUT RATHER: **I Give Thanks**, O Good and Sovereign God that all things have a divine reason; and are ordered by You **to work for good IN THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO LOVE YOU.**

Giving Thanks is not a psychological ploy or tool designed to lessen the impact of life's problems that may rush in like a flood in this fallen world.

BUT RATHER, as **I Give Thanks, I find my mind's focus put in order**— **"Shall the clay say to the Potter, 'What doest Thou?'"**

Giving Thanks is not intended to change circumstances. **Its purpose is to transform my attitudes**, keeping me free from resentment and bitterness; **and bringing me back to humility** and to valuing the soul!

Giving Thanks is to be given in everything but not necessarily for everything. For at the very least, I am humbled and moved to live by faith in the good, sovereign wisdom of God.

Giving Thanks lifts the gaze of my heart from self and circumstances and people to Almighty God, so that now I cry out, **"O the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!"** (Romans 11:33)

3. GIVING THANKS IS "STANDING ON THE PROMISES OF GOD!"

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9) Thus, **Giving Thanks** for the reality of these truths is **faith in the forgiving grace of God**. In fact, how often I have confessed my sin and asked God to forgive me... **but there was still a dark cloud of awareness of guilt** and feelings of "God won't forgive me this time!" SO, IN SPITE OF THESE FEELINGS, **I GIVE THANKS** to God for already having forgiven me! Such is the ongoing power of the blood of Jesus!

Such is the reality of Holy God's total satisfaction with what Christ accomplished on the Cross! **Giving Thanks** causes the heavy burden of guilt to fall off!!! **Moreover, it is for these very reasons that I totally reject the** "I must learn to forgive myself" false teaching!

NOTE: There are an uncountable number of objective truths in the Word of God, which the Holy Spirit will bring before us... **but we only experience them by active faith and trust. Giving Thanks** is powerful, active trust in God and His Word!

4. GIVING THANKS FOR THE UNKNOWN!

Giving Thanks is an act of faith in God's ability to guide His children with supreme wisdom, unfailing love, and unconquerable power. **Giving Thanks** empowers us to walk into the unknown and stand in the presence of the unfamiliar, for **Giving Thanks** is faith that God is capable of showing His children what He wants us to do and where He wants us to go; and that He has the power to make sure that we get home safe!

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you" (Ps. 32:8). **Giving Thanks** is thanking God in the midst of the problem — not for the problem, but for the outcome! (Heb. 12:11) **Giving Thanks** says, "Thank you, Father, that even though all discipline seems **not to be joyful but sorrowful**, yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness." **Giving Thanks** focuses on what we know to be true based on God's Holy Word, in spite of what we may see or feel! We are **Giving Thanks** to God for triumph even though present circumstances suggest defeat!

5. GIVING THANKS AND ANXIETY ABOUT GOD'S PROVISION!

Giving Thanks is not a means of getting what we want; rather, it rests in the promise of God to provide us with what we need. It is not a plea for provision; it's a response to a promise. **Giving Thanks** is not only for what God has given; but also for what God

is going to give! **Giving Thanks** is relaxing in the promises of the sustaining grace of God and enjoying His peace as we trust in His good providential care!

Giving Thanks is most powerful when focused on expressing gratitude over **the incredible attributes of Almighty God!** **Faith is fueled by prayerfully musing upon the attributes of God!**

6. GIVING THANKS and OVERCOMING ANXIETY ABOUT GOD'S TIMING!

Giving Thanks is not designed to change God's timetable or speed up the divine program. Rather, it helps me adjust myself and my schedule to His! **Giving Thanks** does not get my wishes granted quicker— rather, it helps me to patiently wait... to **Thank Him** for His infinite wisdom that controls all His decisions and His perfect timing.

7. GIVING THANKS and OVERCOMING ANXIETY ABOUT PRAYER!

Giving Thanks and Praise to God is the primary form of prayer in Scripture! **Giving Thanks** to God **for who He is** focuses our confidence, not in the act of prayer, **but in the Living God who solicits prayer, hears prayer, and answers prayer.** We do not always know how to pray, but the Holy Spirit enables and empowers our **Thanks Giving.**

8. GIVING THANKS and OVERCOMING ANXIETY ABOUT DEATH!

THANK YOU, FATHER, for the promise of the resurrection...that I will be with You forever! (1 Thess. 4:13-18) **THANK YOU, FATHER,** that You have already prepared a place for me (John 14:1-2); that You designed it (Heb. 11:10); that You have even described it and that it will be my eternal home (Rev. 21-22).

THANK YOU, FATHER for plentiful mercy, plentiful pardon, plentiful peace, plentiful redemption, plentiful forgiveness, plentiful grace, and abundant love.

NOW, AT THE FOUNTAINHEAD of a huge host of wicked sins, GOD PLACES THESE TWO:

(1) Not glorifying God as God!

(2) Not offering unto God praise and thanksgiving! (Note: To get the full impact, one must read Romans 1:22-32!)

WITH THANKSGIVING! / James Bell
/ www.southsidegallatin.org

NEWS NOTES:

EVERY Saturday, * 8:00am — Men's Bible Study: — *THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS!* (Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee's Biscuits are available!)**

***** NEXT Ladies Bible Study— Tuesday, JANUARY 12, 2021, 11:00am: Women of the Bible!**

NOVEMBER 22, SUNDAY SERVICES:

***** Sunday School at 9:30am:** Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes.

***** WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am!**

***** 5:00pm-6:00pm-** Church Wide DISCIPLESHIP... presently an important STUDY on PRAYER, using R.C. Sproul videos...

November 29, 5:00pm-6:00pm -FIFTH SUNDAY Church-wide SINGING/PRAISE to the LORD... AND a message from God's Word, Lukus Haskins.

TUESDAYS: WEEKLY Youth Group Meeting, ages 12 and up ... NOW, Tuesdays a 7:15pm... at Jaden and Rhi's home...

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ SOUTHSIDE:

6:30pm— Come in by the back 'double doors' under the Drive Thru awning

**** Adult Prayer Service Service**

**** Young FAMILIES Prayer Service**

HEALTH REMINDERS as to CHURCH SERVICES

1. IF YOU ARE SICK... [OR if you are presently in a state of high immune deficiency or if (at home or work) you are caring for one who is sick; or if you have • Fever; • Coughing; • • Chills; • Headache; • Sore throat; etc.], please stay home!]

2. IF YOU ARE HEALTHY and well... you may or may not choose to wear a mask... or gloves... WE do not require; we WILL NOT provide such. WE CONTINUE to encourage FREEDOM... as to 'social distancing'— 6ft apart... give sensitivity and respect one to another.

ADDED NOTE: In addition to carefulness, and good hydration, good nutrition, and sleep— ALSO: so as to SEEK TO HAVE A STRONG IMMUNE SYSTEM... I PERSONALLY TAKE ELDERBERRY, VITAMIN C, ZINC, GINGER, VITIMIN D, Quercetin, and a good multi-vitamin that includes fiber.

3. LET each of us DO OUR PART IN personal hygiene. IF you use the restrooms— please wash your hands with SOAP; and use nearby SANITIZER.

IT IS A MATTER OF SAFETY for all, (ESPECIALLY for SENIOR ADULTS), CHILDREN ANY WHERE IN THE CHURCH BUILDING— No unsupervised Children!

FOR THOSE AT HOME: TO RECEIVE THE 10:45am LIVE STREAMING of the worship service of **November 15... GO TO: www.southsidegallatin.org** [You can also connect to our YouTube page for past messages & Bible Studies!]

LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD BY MAIL or ONLINE GIVING:

SUCH funds, (if checks), make out to Southside Baptist) — MAIL TO: Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1594, Gallatin, TN 37066

OR, you may choose to GIVE, via ONLINE GIVING <https://southsidebaptist.breezechms.com/give/online>