

GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

PLEASE USE the Grow in Grace Newsletter for your own spiritual growth; and **AS A RESOURCE** to help equip you to MINISTER to others!

Volume 46, No. 44, November 2, 2021 / 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!"***

GIVING THANKS IN 2021! (Part 1)

THANKSGIVING Day this year: Thursday, the 25th... Thus, November 25-28 is THANKSGIVING WEEKEND. HERE ARE SOME Helps in Being Ready!

1. SOME MAY have extra time off from work. REGARDLESS, LET US list and count our blessings; and LET US Meditate upon His Word, pray, and worship Almighty God through Jesus Christ, by His blessed Holy Spirit.

2. SOME of you may be visiting family and/or friends back home; or family and/or friends MAY be coming to you. There will be grand opportunities to manifest genuine "JESUS IS SAVIOR AND LORD faith!"

EXAMPLES: On Sunday, 11/28/21 — at "their" home or at yours, **be prepared in advance** to be present in Sunday School and Worship Services. **NOTE: It is sadly common** on Holiday weekends for folk to take a vacation from Sunday School Bible Study and from Sunday Worship services. **The excuses are always the same:** *"O we had a house full of company!" "We did not bring any clothes for church!"*

This is just one more reason lost family members and children in the home have the feeling that Christianity is a joke... a crutch... something totally insignificant and unworthy of top priority!

[I WAS NOT BORN YESTERDAY! I know that some will immediately cry out, "You are just being legalistic... trying to send folks on a guilt trip!" Response: Your protest is both lame and false. I am simply seeking to

envision so that disciples of Jesus ‘buy up opportunities’ for joyful ministry unto the LORD!]

BE ALERT! Holidays give Christians wonderful opportunities to humbly and unashamedly show who is LORD of our lives! It can be as simple as, IN ADVANCE, SHARING: *"On Sunday we like to be in Sunday School and Worship services... we would love for you to go with us! If you choose not to, you are welcome to "make yourselves at home" until we get back, etc." Etc.*

ALSO during these days, let us give love and ministry to others— doing good to all but especially to brothers and sisters in Christ.(Gal. 6:10)

Thanksgiving and other holidays also provide good opportunities to build bridges to the lost: *Share a meal. *Watch a game, or play some games. *Go hunting. *Minister to a widow or Shut-in; etc. *Love unconditionally. *Don't corner or pressure— just radiate Christ. ***Manifest great gladness** at the prospects of gathering with the saints for Bible Study and Worship. *Invite others to join in with you but place ZERO pressure and avoid any spirit of condemnation.

THROUGH OUT NOVEMBER and during THANKSGIVING weekend— Let us be a people of **GRATEFUL HEARTS, OPEN HEARTS, SHARING HEARTS, LOVING HEARTS,** and **HEARTS FULL OF PRAISE** and **THANKSGIVING TO GOD!**

LET US SERIOUSLY COMMIT to GIVING THANKS THIS THANKSGIVING... and on all other days! “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!"***

PLEASE 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!)

God's Commands and Promises are Wonderfully Clear:

1. "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (1 Thess. 5:18)

2. "REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS: and again I say rejoice...be anxious about nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4:4-7)

3. Whether we are in the ecstasy of jubilation or the agony of desperation— It is a good thing to give thanks: Psalm 92.

4. Thanksgiving sanctifies all aspects of life, including suffering!

2 Thess. 5:18.

5. There is always something significant to thank God for with everything God brings or allows in our lives: Ephesians 5:20.

6. We are able to give thanks in these ways because we have confidence that God is working everything together for the specific good of conforming us into the image of Jesus Christ: **Romans 8:28-29.**

7. Moreover, it is a repeated, wonderful command that we are to be thankful: Colossians 3:15; Psalm 100:4.

8. In a marvelous way, the giving of thanks is connected with saving faith: **Luke 17:11-19.**

Note: A lack of faith and a spirit of ingratitude go together!

Thanksgiving and Praise Often Involve Sacrifice:

1. Let us give verbal praise and thanksgiving unto the LORD: **"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a SACRIFICE OF PRAISE, the fruit of lips that confess His name."** (Hebrews 13:15)

2. The most astounding example of THANKSGIVING comes from the lips of Jesus! Standing before His disciples, Jesus *"took the cup, and gave thanks"* (Matthew 26:27). As you know, that cup contained wine which was representative of His own blood which He was soon to shed for the sins of the whole world.

It was the cup of death, and yet with the very shadow of the Cross upon Him, Jesus gave THANKS!

Crowded into that cup were

(1) Your sins and mine; (2) The wrath of God against those sins; and (3) The very sacrifice of Himself for us. **Instead of shrinking back, JESUS quietly "took the cup, and gave thanks!"** O how doomed we all would be were it not for the miracles which come forth from the fountain of **JESUS' SACRIFICE OF THANKSGIVING!**

NOW: Now, many more miracles wait to be manifested, especially upon the undeserving ones of our world! Let us walk in the steps of Jesus. Let the miracles come forth... as we OVER-FLOW with THANKS unto the LORD! [This article is drawn from THANK YOU THERAPY, by Don Baker]

Grace! Peace! THANKSGIVING! And Love in Christ! To All Saints! James

www.southsidegallatin.org

NEWS NOTES:

EVERY Saturday, * 8:00 AM, 11/6/21 — Men's Bible Study: *THE BOOK OF JOB*, (Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee's Biscuits are available!)**

***** NEXT Ladies Bible Study! NOVEMBER 9 @ 11:00 AM**

SUNDAY SERVICES, NOVEMBER 7, 14, 21, 28

1. * Sunday School at 9:30am:** Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes. **2. *** WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am!**

ADDITIONAL SUNDAY EVENTS:

NOVEMBER 7 @ NOON... Covered Dish FELLOWSHIP Meal

NOVEMBER 14 @ 5:00 PM, FAITHFUL MEN, 1689 Confession of Faith

NOVEMBER 21 ... LORD'S SUPPER at the end of the Morning Worship service! // HOME GROUPS!

NOVEMBER 28 5:00pm- Church Wide WORSHIP SERVICE in the auditorium!
A variety of singing/praise! PREACHING: Lukus Haskins

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

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ SOUTHSIDE:

6:30pm— come in back 'double doors' under the Drive Thru awning!

**** Adult Prayer Service**

**** Young FAMILIES Prayer Service**

***** LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD BY MAIL or by 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>

HEALTH REMINDERS as to CHURCH SERVICES AND as to Responding with WISDOM and NOT fear IN SEEKING TO KEEP AS HEALTHY AS WE CAN— SO AS TO BE ACTIVE IN THE KINGDOM BUSINESS OF THE LORD!

1. IF YOU ARE SICK... [OR if you are 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... WE do not require it. WE CONTINUE to encourage FREEDOM as to 'social distancing'... masks ... vaccine choices, etc. — PLEASE HONOR THE LORD, by continuing to give sensitivity and respect one to another.

3. In addition to carefulness, good hydration, good nutrition, and sleep— ALSO: SEEK TO BUILD UP A STRONG IMMUNE SYSTEM! I PERSONALLY TAKE ELDERBERRY, VITAMIN C, ZINC, GINGER, VITAMIN D, Quercetin, and a good multi-vitamin that includes fiber... And I have a PRESCRIPTION of Ivermectin... TO TAKE, if needed.

DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH! BE PROACTIVE! BE PREVENTIVE!

4. 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.]

5. HERE IS AN EDUCATIONAL resource from The Association of American Physicians and Surgeons... FROM Doctors who successfully treat covid-19 patients!

CLICK => <https://breggin.com/covid-19-home-treatment/>

Peter McCullough, MD testifies to Texas Senate HHS Committee. BRIEF. EXCELLENT:

→ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAHi3lX3oGM>

The PDF booklet: A Guide to Home-Based COVID Treatment can be downloaded ... **focus is on PREVENTION and early treatment!**

[COVID Treatment - Truth for Health Foundation](#)

<https://www.truthforhealth.org/patientguide/patient-treatment-guide/>