

GOD as Giver

March 11-March 17

Gift Giver -- God is the great gift giver and we need to be careful to give Him thanks for His many gifts. And we need to do this especially when we are in this season of seeking and asking to be a more fruitful body that brings Him more glory.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes about the crucial role that gratitude plays in the formation of Christian community in his book Life Together. "We prevent God from giving us the great spiritual gifts He has in store for us, because we do not give thanks for daily gifts. ... We pray for the big things and forget to give thanks for the ordinary, small (and yet really not small) gifts.... If we do not give thanks daily for the Christian fellowship in which we have been placed.... then we hinder God from letting our fellowship grow according to the measure and riches which are there for us all in Jesus Christ."

Scriptures for Meditation

Luke 17:11-19 | As he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

1Thessalonians 5:17-18 | Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Philippians 4:5-7 | The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3:15-17 | And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Psalm 103 | Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me,
bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his
benefits,

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

Serve the LORD with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the LORD, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep
of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!

For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

Other Notes