

“Thanking God Daily”

Psalm 68:19

Sunday, November 26, 2023

Introduction: I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. As you reflect on the Thanksgiving weekend, what would you say was your greatest weakness this Thanksgiving? My greatest weakness is not knowing when to stop eating. I eat the meal, and about three hours later I eat it again. It is really Dottie’s fault. Everything she cooks is good especially her pumpkin pie!

Let me ask you a more important question. What is your greatest weakness as a Christian.

1. Consistency in daily Bible reading and prayer?
2. Sharing Christ with people?
3. Totally forgiving people?
4. Something else?

My sermon today is about a spiritual weakness you may not be aware of. My sermon today is about thanking God daily for his blessings. To some degree, probably a weakness we all have.

- Thanking God daily is a way we can be like an angel. I saw a quote this week that reminded me of that.
- The quote: “In prayer we act like men; in praise we act like angels.” (Thomas Watson—17th century preacher in England)
- Psalm 68:19 remind us why we should thank God daily.

Text: Psalm 68:19

- Psalm 68 is a song of celebration that David wrote about God's goodness.

Application: Probably more of us thank God for our blessings in November than any month of the year. But God's blessings are daily, every day of the year not just in November. We either do not see them daily or we fail to thank God daily. How does this happen?

T.S. How does this happen? The prophet Haggai's words to the tiny remnant of returned exiles in 520 BC gives the answer.

Text: Haggai chapter 1 Background

- Within two years of their return from Babylon captivity, God's people had cleared the Temple Mount and completed the foundation of the second temple in Jerusalem (Ezra 1:2-4; 3:8-10; 4:1-5,24; 6:3-5).
- But progress on the temple then stopped for 16 years. Instead of building God's House, the Israelites built houses for themselves.

Text: Haggai 1:1-11(Contains choices and shows consequences).

- The prophet Haggai stepped on the stage with words from God for them.
- Zerubbabel was given the task of rebuilding the temple.
- Joshua was the high priest.

T.S. Haggai's message to the Israelites was to complete rebuilding God's house. His message has a secondary purpose for us.

1. We don't thank God for His daily blessings if we don't see God's daily blessings.

- It is just that simple. If we do not see God's blessings, we will not thank God for His blessings.
- We don't see God's blessings because we too often are like the tiny remnant of returned exiles who focused on their houses rather than God's House.

Application: When our priorities are out of order, we don't see God's daily blessings.

Illustration: Jesus dealt with Priorities in Matthew 6:33.

Question: How do we not see all of God's blessings?

2. When kingdom priorities become secondary to personal priorities, we will not see God's daily blessings.

- At the time Haggai wrote, those who had returned had been back in the promised land 16 years.
- They had laid the foundation for the temple, but no further work had been accomplished.
- God so to speak had been put on the back burner.

- There was no praise. Instead, there was dissatisfaction, lack of joy and emptiness (Haggai 1:5-6).

Application: We, unfortunately, are often the same in our attitude toward God.

- We are happy to have God in the vicinity even though He is not in our midst.
- We want to have God in general.
- We think we don't need God in specific.
- Having God in our vicinity is good, but God in our midst is what leads to praise.

Illustration: To say, "God has been good to me" is to have God in specific. To say, "God came through for me" is to have God in specific. To say, "God answered my prayer" is to have God in specific.

Conclusion: When God is in the midst of our life rather than on the periphery of our life, we will see His daily benefits and blessings and like the angels praise Him at every opportunity.

I learned something from a sermon from Times Square Church in New York about butterflies that I did not know that parallels our situation.

- Not all caterpillars turn into butterflies.
- Some caterpillars get "bugs" that prevents them from becoming butterflies.

In the same way, all Christians don't turn into thankful/praising Christians.

1. One "bug" is the "comparison bug." Others seem to have more blessings than we do.
2. Another "bug" is the "bitter bug."
3. Another "bug" is the "unforgiveness bug."
4. Another "bug" is the "worry bug."

If you are not a praising Christian, you have a "bug."

Invitation: To be a praising Christian you must be a Christian.