Ways To Express Thanks

(A Thanksgiving Message)

We have a lot to be thankful for:

1. Thank Him for His gift of salvation (in Christ)
   II Cor. 9:15 - "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift."

2. Thank Him for His goodness and mercy
   (Ps. 106:1, 107:1, 136:1-3)

3. Thank Him for your future deliverance from indwelling sin
   (Rom. 7:23-25)

4. Thank Him for victory over death and the grave
   I Cor. 15:57 - "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

5. Thank Him for you future inheritance
   Col. 1:12 - "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need."

6. Thank Him for the food you eat
   EX: Samuel - I Sam. 9:13
   Jesus - Jn. 6:11; Mt. 15:36, 26:26
   Paul - Acts 27:35
   (Cp. Rom. 14:6; I Cor. 10:30; I Tim. 4:3)
   Don't limit your heart-felt thanks to the fourth Thursday in November (Thanksgiving).

7. Thank Him for supplying our physical needs (Rom. 14:6, 7;
   I Tim. 4:3, 4).

8. Thank Him for what He teaches you
   Col. 2:7 - "Rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving."

9. Thank Him for the Bible
   Ps. 119:62 - "At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto Thee because of Thy righteous judgments."

10. Thank Him for our relationship to fellow believers
    Col. 3:15 - "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."

    Thank God for your church.

11. Thank Him for the ministry He has given you
    I Tim. 1:12 - "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry."

12. Thank Him for your governing authorities (I Tim. 2:1ff)

13. Thank Him for using you to lead others to a saving knowledge of Christ
    II Cor. 2:14 - "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of His knowledge by us in every place."

14. Thank Him when someone shows concern for you (when someone cares)
    II Cor. 8:16 - "But thanks be to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you."

15. Thank Him in the midst of <u>problems</u> (potential worries) (Phil. 4:6-7)
EX: Peter & John (Acts 5:41
EX: Paul & Silas (Acts 16:25)
What can we be thankful about in the midst of trials?
    1. That God is in control
    2. That Jesus is with us (Mt. 28:20)
    3. That God is teaching us about ourselves (Ja. 1:2ff)
       "Trying of your faith" = testing to prove genuineness
    4. That God is producing <u>patience</u> in us
    5. That God is <u>maturing</u> us (in ways we could not mature without trials)

16. Thank him for giving you <u>wisdom</u> and <u>might</u>
Dan. 2:23 - "I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee; for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter."

17. Thank Him for the <u>conversion</u> of others
Rom. 6;17 - "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you."

18. Thank Him for the <u>faith</u> of others
Rom. 1:8 - "First, I thank my God through jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world."
II Thes. 1:3

19. Thank Him for the <u>love</u> of others
II Thes. 1:3 - "We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of everyone of you all toward each other aboundeth."

20. Thank Him for the <u>zeal</u> of others
II Cor. 8:16 - "But thanks be to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you."

21. Thank Him for the spiritual <u>maturity</u> of others
I Th. 2:13 - "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the Word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."

Often we take for granted God's blessings *(compare the 9 ungrateful cleansed lepers -Luke 17:11-19)*

How should we express thanks to God for all He has done for us?

I. Say it

A. Say it to Him

1 Chronicles 16:8 Give thanks unto the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the
Psalms 106:1 ¶ Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.
Psalms 118:1 ¶ O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: because his mercy endureth for ever.
Psalms 119:62 ¶ At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments.

B. Say it to others

Psalms 35:18 I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people.
Psalms 105:1 ¶ O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people.

See: Paul's example - Acts 27:35

Words can be cheap however; The ultimate way we express thanks is by our actions.

Thanksgiving is really "thanksliving"

II. Show it

A. By your <u>giving</u>
(II Corinthians 8:7-9; 9:10-15)
Our giving to God and to others expresses our appreciation for God's gift to us.

B. By your <u>living</u>
Romans 12:1 - your full surrender is only your "reasonable service" in light of the abundant mercies God has showered upon you

A life of purity and pursuit of holiness expresses more thankfulness than ten thousand words.

C. By your <u>loving</u>
Loving God & others is the proof of a grateful heart
1 John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

Love is not mere words but it consists of action
1 John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

D. By your <u>forgiving</u>
Eph. 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

E. By your <u>serving</u>
See: Revelation 7:14-15

Hebrews 12:28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: