

"GRADUATING IN GRATITUDE"

TWCC Teaching Handout – Wednesday, November 28th, 2018



GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD.
In Everything Give Thanks!

- **Colossians 3:15 - 17 (NKJV)** - *"¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and **be thankful**. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. ¹⁷ And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, **giving thanks to God the Father through Him.**"*
- **1 Thessalonians 5:18 (AMPC)** – *"**Thank [God] in everything** [no matter what the circumstances may be, **be thankful** and **give thanks**], for this is the will of God for you [who are] in Christ Jesus [the Revealer and Mediator of that will]."*
- **THREE (3) G's OF GRADUATING IN GRATITUDE:**
 - **1st – The _____ of GRATITUDE:** *Gate* is defined as a means of entrance; an opening – in a wall or fence.
 - There is a purpose and power of _____ that the Scriptures reveal as an entrance to:
 - (1) _____ (**Colossians 3:15 – 17; Philippians 4:6 – 7**) – *THANKSGIVING* creates the context to keep PRAYER on focus – the byproduct, PEACE is the spiritual, mental and emotional evidence of this focus; PEACE produces freedom from fears, moral conflicts and agitating passions. (2) _____ (**1 Thessalonians 5:15 – 18** – These are disciplined responses to *difficulties*, *challenges* and *opportunities* that help to shape and form the Character of Christ in your heart and life; It wouldn't be a command if it wasn't in the reach of your **CHOICE**; Choose Joy – Joy is within your reach all of the time! You bypass your natural emotions to making a mature choice and response in the midst of the situation. _____ activates the inferior to under-mind your **FAITH. IF YOU COMPLAIN YOU WILL REMAIN!** (Gratitude = Progress; Ingratitude / Grumbling / Complaining = Digress and Decrease). **Philippians 2:14 (AMPC)** – *"Do all things without grumbling and faultfinding and complaining [against God] and questioning and doubting [among yourselves]"*. (3) The _____ of God (**Read Psalms 100**).
 - **2nd – The _____ of GRATITUDE:** (*"5 Benefits of Gratitude"* - You Tube Video Clip – by Teri Savelle Foy; You Tube Link: <https://youtu.be/uy5STkzLptA> . A _____ from God is GOOD and PERFECT – in other words **BENEFICIAL** – **James 1:17 (TPT)** – *"Every gift God freely gives us is **good** and **perfect**, streaming down from the Father of lights, who shines from the heavens with no hidden shadow or darkness and is never subject to change."*



“GRADUATING IN GRATITUDE”...



■ 3rd – The _____ LEVELS of GRATITUDE:

- **1st GRADE:** _____ **LEVEL:** “Thanksgiving, gratitude or appreciation only _____ something good, pleasant or beneficial that has happened”. This is the BASIC, rudimentary and routine level of GRATITUDE. You give thanks when you recognize and remember what The Lord has done. Because of what He did, we give _____. The Ten (10) Lepers: (Read Luke 17:11 – 19).

- **2nd GRADE:** _____ **LEVEL:** This using praise as a weapon and tool in seasons of warfare; disease and difficulties. This is THANKSGIVING _____ OF the CIRCUMSTANCE or SITUATION. Psalms 8:2 (NKJV) – *“Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, **because of Your enemies, that You may silence the enemy and the avenger.**”* Blessing and Sanctifying Food: (Read 1 Corinthians 14:16 – 17; 1 Timothy 4:4 – 5) – **THANKSFULNESS TAKES THE “STING” OUT OF SOMETHING SENT YOUR WAY TO HARM YOU!** 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (TPT) – *“And in the midst of everything be always giving thanks, for this is God’s perfect plan for you in Christ Jesus.”*

- **3rd GRADE:** _____ **LEVEL:** This the _____ SACRIFICE level of Thanksgiving; gratitude and appreciation. This is where you graduate to become an “Addicted-Thanks-giver”, an “Appreciatologist” and a “Praise-a-holic”. At this level, you’ve matured to *manage* and *maintain* a Christ-like Attitude of _____. Hebrews 13:15 (NKJV) – *“Therefore by Him let us continually offer **the sacrifice of praise** to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, **giving thanks** to His name.”* Ephesians 5:18 – 20 (NKJV) – *“¹⁸And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰**giving thanks always** for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* You always more conscious of BLESSING than you are conscious of NEED at this level.
 - **One of the major characteristics of being Spirit-filled, Spirit-controlled is** _____. If you are not _____ your spiritual tank (heart) is not full.
 - This is the LEVEL our Lord wants us to graduate (mature) to. You don’t get a _____ heart by *IMPARTATION* (prayer, preaching or prophecy); you get it by mature, Christ-like **CHOICES!** Grumbling and complaining empowers you to be more *mindful* of a problem, pressure, predicament or pain than you are *mindful* of the goodness of God (Psalms 100:5; Psalms 106:1; Psalms 107:1). Remember, at it’s root, THANKSGIVING is “remembering” and “valuing” what the Lord has done, is doing and will do based on His Word.
 - Nehemiah 12:27 – 31 (NKJV) – *“²⁷ Now at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought out the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, both **with thanksgivings** and singing, with cymbals and stringed instruments and harps. ²⁸ And the sons of the singers gathered together from the countryside around Jerusalem, from the villages of the Netophathites, ²⁹ from the house of Gilgal, and from the fields of Geba and Azmaveth; for the singers had built themselves villages all around Jerusalem. ³⁰ Then the priests and Levites purified themselves, and purified the people, the gates, and the wall. ³¹ So I brought the leaders of Judah up on the wall, and **appointed two large thanksgiving choirs...**”* **There is a secret to having a routine, wherein you bypass the limitations of your own emotional condition at the moment to make mature choices which activates your emotions to get in line with what you’re doing.**

