

GREG'S NOTES

A NEW BEGINNING TEACHING OUTLINES

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HOW TO HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Psalm 100 and 1 Corinthians 11

Thanksgiving is a distinctive American holiday. It doesn't commemorate a battle, anyone's birthday, or an anniversary. It is simply a date set aside to express our thanks to God Almighty. In 1789, President George Washington made a public proclamation on the recommendation of both Houses of Congress to "recommend to the people of the United States a day of public Thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many Signal favors of Almighty God . . ." President Washington established Thanksgiving, to remind Americans of God's faithfulness.

Psalm 100 serves as a reminder to give thanks, and teaches us these four things:

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

1. **Express your praise to God openly and loudly.** The Bible tells us in Psalm 47:1 to "shout unto God with the voice of triumph" (NKJV). God's people should verbalize their love for Him. It's easy to give thanks for "good things." But it is not so easy to give thanks for the "bad things" in life. We should be thankful no matter what.
2. **Serve the Lord with gladness.** Every Christian is called into service. We all have been blessed with special talents and gifts. There are natural talents, like singing and building, and then there are spiritual gifts, like prophecy or preaching. Serve the Lord with your gifts and do it gladly. Serving should not be a drudgery.
3. **You are a sheep. Follow your Shepherd.** Psalm 100:3 says, "Acknowledge that the Lord is God! He made us, and we are His. We are His people and the sheep of His pasture." Everything we have is from God—our breath, life, every heartbeat. We are also works in progress. A smart sheep will follow its shepherd and knows the shepherd is always looking out for it. You can trust your Savior's direction.
4. **We should be an active part of the church.** God manifests His presence in a wonderful way when we gather together. Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them" (NKJV). All of us together are the temple of God, and the Spirit of God lives in us (see 1 Corinthians 3:16).

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RELEVANT REMINDERS

- Your rejoicing should not be based on what you have, but on who you know.
- Possessions, friends, and time come and go. Sometimes our health fails. But God does not come and go. Jesus comes and stays (Hebrews 13:5).
- Thanksgiving is about remembering God's faithfulness and praising Him.

APPLICABLE ACTIONS

Thanksgiving is a great day to reflect, rejoice, and revive. Jesus gave thanks. On the night He was betrayed, He took some bread and gave thanks to God. Then He broke the bread in pieces saying, "This is My Body, which is given for you. Do this to remember Me." Then He took the cup and gave thanks for it, even though He knew He would be beaten, hit, whipped, and nailed to the cross. Worst of all, He knew He would bear the sins of the world. Yet He gave thanks. Why? "For the joy that was set before Him [He] endured the cross" (Hebrews 12:2 NKJV). When Jesus went to the cross, He was thinking of you. Do you know Him in a personal way?