

THANKSGIVING
WHAT TO DO AFTER THANKSGIVING
PSALM 100:4; 1 CHRONICLES 16:7-36

Introduction

Here Is A Question: *WHAT COMES AFTER THANKSGIVING?*

Well, if I were talking about **Thanksgiving Dinner**, some might say:

- 1) Football
- 2) A Nap (*A food-induced coma!*)
- 3) Turkey leftovers (e.g. *“Twelve days of Thanksgiving”*)
- 4) A Diet (After falling off the *“diet wagon”*)
- 5) Shopping (I feel sad for the employees made to work Thanksgiving)

But I’m not talking about **Thanksgiving Dinner**. Well some might think then of **Thanksgiving Day** and say...

- 1) Black Friday (*e.g. A boy and his mother in line since Wednesday*)
- 2) Christmas!/Hanukkah

But I’m not talking even talking about **Thanksgiving Day**, I’m talking about **THANKSGIVING** itself or rather, the ***GIVING OF THANKS TO THE LORD!*** Notice *verse 4* of our text this morning!

What comes after *“...be thankful unto Him?”—“and bless His name!”*
Well, what in the world does that even mean?—“BLESS HIS NAME!”

In the Scripture we can see that **when the LORD “BLESSED” men, they were helped and strengthened and made better off than they were before!** We could point to many, many examples in Scripture of folks who were ***BLESSED OF THE LORD!*** Amen!

Even today many know and have known of the ***BLESSING of the LORD!*** I know that I, for one, have certainly been ***BLESSED of the LORD!*** I know that our Church has certainly been ***BLESSED of the LORD!*** Those that were with us last Sunday night heard TESTIMONIES of some who have been **BLESSED** of the LORD! If we were to take time for EACH of us to COUNT OUR BLESSINGS, we’d be here a while!

But how can sinful, mortal creatures “BLESS THE LORD!?”

THANKSGIVING
WHAT TO DO AFTER THANKSGIVING
PSALM 100:4; 1 CHRONICLES 16:7-36

Understand that Blessing the LORD and Blessing His name are used together to describe what we are talking about! (*Pssalm 103:1-2*)

I heard a preacher friend of mine that I love and respect say one time while he was preaching, ***“Men can’t bless God!”***

Now, in his message, he was railing against preachers and others who use the phrase ***“Bless God”*** flippantly all the time trying to sound all spiritual. **Now, I agree with him that many folks, and especially many preachers, throw that phrase “Bless God” around more flippantly than they should.** In fact, it borders on using the LORD’s name in vain the way that it is used sometimes! **We should ALL BE careful how we use the LORD’s name!**

But even the best of preachers can get it wrong; and my friend got it wrong! He was right in taking a stand about flippantly using the name of the LORD in one’s conversation! But he was wrong saying that men can’t bless God! Because Scripture does speak of ***BLESSING THE LORD!*** (The actual phrase ***“bless the LORD”*** is found in Scripture 18 times—12 of those times are in the Psalms!)

So, if we **can BLESS THE LORD...**and we **can...Don’t you think that’s something we need to know about? And something that we, as Believers, should know how to do?**

Listen to what the LORD told his people Israel:

*Deuteronomy 8:10—“When thou hast eaten and art full, then **thou shalt bless the LORD thy God** for the good land which he hath given thee.”*

Moses was giving the people various commandments from the LORD and this was one of them!

The Psalmist David said:

*Psalm 34:1—“I will **bless the LORD** at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.”*

Listen to me, when men ***“bless the LORD,”*** The LORD is not helped or strengthened or made better off in any way!

THANKSGIVING
WHAT TO DO AFTER THANKSGIVING
PSALM 100:4; 1 CHRONICLES 16:7-36

After all, how is anyone going to help or strengthen One Who is absolutely perfect and Almighty? That's impossible!

When the Old Testament speaks of *blessing the LORD*, it is NOT speaking of a process that aims at the increase of the LORD's strength, because the LORD God is Almighty!

Rather, man's *BLESSING THE LORD* goes to our *MOVING BEYOND* mere WORDS of THANKSGIVING to the EXPRESSIONS of our THANKSGIVING to Him! (Let me say that again!)

BLESSING THE LORD is both the *EXPRESSION* and *EXCLAMATION* of our GRATITUDE TO HIM and our ADMIRATION OF HIM!

When you do something nice for someone or give someone an extraordinary gift of some kind, what means more to you—their WORDS of THANKS to you OR their EXPRESSIONS of their GRATITUDE to you? Both are nice, but the EXPRESSIONS of GRATITUDE show that the WORDS are not just an empty display of saying what is expected!

Let's look at this matter of our "*BLESSING THE LORD*"!

I. WE CAN BLESS THE LORD BY PRAISING HIM!

Psalm 34:1—"I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth."

Psalm 71:8—"Let my mouth be filled with thy praise and with thy honour all the day."

1 Chronicles 29:10-14

Hebrews 13:15—"By him [Jesus Christ] therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."

Psalm 50:23—"Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me:..."

THANKSGIVING
WHAT TO DO AFTER THANKSGIVING
PSALM 100:4; 1 CHRONICLES 16:7-36

WE CAN BLESS THE LORD BY PRAISING HIM!
II. WE CAN BLESS THE LORD BY SINGING HIS PRAISES!
Psalm 95:1-2 – "1 O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. 2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms."

Psalm 96:1-3—"1 O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the LORD, all the earth. 2 Sing unto the LORD, bless his name; shew forth his salvation from day to day. 3 Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people."

Psalm 98:1 – "O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory."

Psalm 149:1—"Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints."

1 Chronicles 16:7-15, 23-36

- A. Give Thanks Unto Him! (Vs 8)
- B. Tell Others What He Has Done! (Vs 8-9, 24)
- C. Glory In Him! (Vs 10)
(i.e. Rejoicing in what HE has done and is doing!)

III. WE CAN BLESS THE LORD BY SEEKING HIM!

(1 Chronicles 16:11)

- A. We Bless The LORD By Seeking His Strength!
(i.e. Believers have been given His Holy Spirit! So, therefore, when we are filled with His Spirit, we are strong!)

Ephesians 6:10—"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."

THANKSGIVING
WHAT TO DO AFTER THANKSGIVING
PSALM 100:4; 1 CHRONICLES 16:7-36

(i.e. When a Believer seeks the LORD's strength, it shows their absolute dependence upon the LORD because the Believer cannot accomplish anything in his or her own power!)

John 15:5– "...for without me ye can do nothing!

B. We Bless The LORD By Seeking His Face!

(i.e. Seeking HIS approval and blessing!)

Psalm 105:3–“Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD. 4 Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore.”

Psalm 27:8-9–“8 When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek. 9 Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.

WE CAN BLESS THE LORD BY SEEKING HIM...

IV. WE CAN BLESS THE LORD BY REMEMBERING AND ACKNOWLEDGING ALL HIS WORKS AND BENEFITS!
(1 Chronicles 16:12)

Psalm 145:10–“All thy works shall praise thee, O LORD; and thy saints shall bless thee.”

Psalm 103:2–“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:”

Ephesians 1:3–“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:”

Look at what the Apostle John, the Revelator, saw in his vision in Revelation 5:11-14 !

THANKSGIVING
WHAT TO DO AFTER THANKSGIVING
PSALM 100:4; 1 CHRONICLES 16:7-36

WE CAN BLESS THE LORD BY REMEMBERING AND ACKNOWLEDGING ALL HIS WORKS AND BENEFITS...

V. WE CAN BLESS THE LORD BY OFFERING BACK TO THE LORD WHAT HE HAS BLESSED US WITH!
(1 Chronicles 16:28-29)

A. Offer Him Glory!

1 Corinthians 10:31–“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

B. Offer Him Strength!

Colossians 3:23–“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;”

C. Offer Him An Offering! (Vs 29)

(i.e. Tithes, Missions, Love Offerings)

VI. WE CAN BLESS THE LORD WHEN WE FEAR BEFORE HIM!
(1 Chronicles 16:30)

A. Be Mindful Of His Word! (1 Chronicles 16:15)

B. Be Mindful Of His Control! (1 Chronicles 16:31)

C. Be Mindful Of His Goodness And Mercy! (16:34)

VII. WE CAN BLESS THE LORD WHEN WE WORSHIP HIM FROM DEEP WITHIN OUR HEART AND SOUL!

Psalm 103:1-2–“Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:”

Deuteronomy 6:4-5–“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: 5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”

THANKSGIVING
WHAT TO DO AFTER THANKSGIVING
PSALM 100:4; 1 CHRONICLES 16:7-36

*Psalm 104:1—“**Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty.**”*

Conclusion

What are we to do after thanksgiving? Blessing the LORD! Are you blessing Him with **IN** your life? Are you blessing Him **WITH** your life!

Psalm 145:1-5, 21

Extol = “To raise or lift up.”