

## **A word about thankfulness**

At times life's woes can be pressing on us so hard that we become unaware of all the blessings bestowed upon us by God. But no matter how difficult circumstances may be there are those with problems so grave that they would gladly trade places with us and be thankful to do so.

Let us never forget to be thankful toward God Almighty for having made us and putting life into our beings so we may experience all that we have. God knows our struggles and He really does honor our thankfulness. In fact thanking God is a spiritual sacrifice well known to the faithful of the Bible. King David was delivered from death's jaws on more than one occasion. David said in the Psalms *"I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of Yahweh."* (Psalm 116:18)

The apostle Paul considered thanks to God so important to the spiritual life that he designated it as a Christian duty. *"But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren of the Master, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth."* (II Thess. 2:13) Paul even places Godly thankfulness in the arena of God's will: *"In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."* (I Thess. 5:18)

We can be thankful for many things, but if we want a condensed version of some important things the Scriptures says we should be thanking God for, here are a few: We should make a point of thanking God for *food* (John 6:11,23), *wisdom* (Daniel 2:23), *converts* (I Thess. 1:2), *prayer answered* (John 11:41), *victory* (I Corinth. 15:57), *salvation* (II Corinth.9:15), *the bread and wine supper* (I Corinth. 11:24), *lives changed to follow Christ* (I Thess. 2:13).

There are seven themes of worship in heaven by the angels round about the throne of God. One of them is *"thanksgiving"* (Revelation 7:12)

When all is said and done there are two classifications of people on Earth. The righteous, who have been made so by the blood of the Lamb Jesus, and the unrighteous. The righteous shall live in the presence of God. As with the "angels of heaven" their expression of praise before God is that of thanking Him. *"Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy (God's) name: the upright shall dwell in thy presence."* (Psalm 140: 13)

We are alive in Christ. Let us thank God.