

**BEING THANKFUL WHEN TIMES ARE TOUGH**  
**Sermon Series: Gratitude Or Grumbling?**  
**Sermon Outline**  
**October 31, 2021**  
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† Philippians 2:14, “Do all things without grumbling, faultfinding, or complaining” (AMPC).

**When We Gripe and Grumble . . .**

**1. We are \_\_\_\_\_.**

- † 1 Thessalonians 5:18, “Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus” (NLT).
- † 1 Corinthians 10:9-11, “We must never put the Lord to the test, as some of the Hebrews did in the wilderness. <sup>10</sup>Do not complain, gripe or grumble as they did. God had 23,000 of them killed by snakes. God destroyed them with the Angel of Death. <sup>11</sup>All these things happened to them as examples for others and us today. They were written down as a warning for us” (PAR).
- † Exodus 12:11-12, “As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up and saw them—Egyptians! Coming at them! They were totally afraid. They cried out in terror to God. <sup>12</sup>They told Moses, “Weren’t the cemeteries large enough in Egypt so that you had to take us out here in the wilderness to die? What have you done to us, taking us out of Egypt? Back in Egypt didn’t we tell you this would happen? Didn’t we tell you, ‘Leave us alone here in Egypt—we’re better off as slaves in Egypt than as corpses in the wilderness’” (MSG).

**2. We \_\_\_\_\_.**

- † Ephesians 4:29, “When you talk, don’t say anything bad. Do not grumble, or gripe or complain. But say the good things that people need—whatever will help them grow stronger. Then what you say will be a blessing to those who hear you rather than causing them to stumble and not trust the Lord” (PAR).
- † 1 Thessalonians 5:18, “No matter what happens, give thanks to God in all circumstances, because this is God’s will in Christ Jesus that you do this” (NOG).

**No Matter My Situation, I Can Always Be Thankful . . .**

**1. For the \_\_\_\_\_ me with in my life.**

- The Bible defines grace as god giving me what I \_\_\_\_\_, not what I \_\_\_\_\_.
- † James 1:17, *Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father . . .*” (NLT).
- The Greek New Testament word translated as “good” is [ἀγαθός; agathos]. A better word literally means “\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.”
- The second word is the word translated as “perfect” is the Greek New Testament word [τέλειος; teleios]. It means “\_\_\_\_\_.”
- † Ephesians 2:8-9, “For by grace you have been saved by faith. Nothing you did could ever earn this salvation, for it was the love gift from God that brought us to Christ! <sup>9</sup>So no one will ever be able to boast, for salvation is never a reward for good works or human striving” (TPT).
- Ephesians 2:8-9 says you can’t \_\_\_\_\_ salvation; you \_\_\_\_\_ it.
- † Psalms 103:2-5, 8-10, “I will not forget all the gifts of grace God gives me. <sup>3</sup>He forgives all my sins and heals me by His grace. <sup>4</sup>He rescued me from hell by His grace. He surrounds me with lovingkindness and tender mercy and <sup>5</sup>He fills my life with good things — all by His grace . . . <sup>8</sup>He is merciful and tender toward those who don’t deserve it due to His grace. He is slow to get angry. <sup>9</sup>He never bears a grudge because of His grace. <sup>10</sup>He has not punished us as we deserve for our sins — all because of His grace” (TLB/PAR).

**2. For the \_\_\_\_\_ God has for me.**

- † Proverbs 14:12, “You can rationalize it all you want and justify the path of error you have chosen, but you’ll find out in the end that you took the road to destruction” (TPT).
- † Hebrews 13:20-21, “God has raised from death our Lord Jesus, who is the Great Shepherd of the sheep as the result of His blood, by which the eternal covenant is sealed. <sup>21</sup>May the God of peace provide you with every good thing you need in order to do His will, His plan for your life, and may He, through Jesus Christ, do in us what pleases Him. And to Christ be the glory forever and ever! Amen” (GNT).
- We do not worship a God who is the \_\_\_\_\_ for all our suffering; we worship a God who \_\_\_\_\_ all our suffering.
- † Isaiah 53:4-5, “Surely He took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him punished by God, stricken by Him, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup>But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed” (NIV).
- \_\_\_\_\_ never answer nor satisfy nor comfort \_\_\_\_\_.
- What you need when going through a tough time is not an \_\_\_\_\_ for your pain. What you need is to \_\_\_\_\_ - the presence of God.

† Romans 8:28, "We know that God makes all things work together for the good of those who love Him and have chosen to be a part of His plan" (NLV).

**3. God has promise to never \_\_\_\_\_ me.**

† Hebrews 13:5b, "For God has said, 'I will never fail you. I will never abandon you'" (NLT).

† Isaiah 43:2, "When you go through deep waters, I will be with you! When you pass through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown! When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned up; it will NOT consume you!" (NLT).

- One of the ways we can give thanks to God is through \_\_\_\_\_.
- A second powerful way we can give thanks to God is through \_\_\_\_\_.

† Philippians 4:6, "Don't be pulled in different directions or worried about a thing. Be saturated in prayer throughout each day, offering your faith-filled requests before God with overflowing gratitude and thanksgiving. Tell Him every detail of your life" (TPT).

**4. For the \_\_\_\_\_ God is bringing about in me.**

† Romans 5:3-4, "Even in times of trouble we have a joyful confidence, knowing that our pressures will develop in us patient endurance. <sup>4</sup>And patient endurance will refine our character, and proven character leads us back to hope" (TPT).

† Mark 8:36, "Jesus said, 'For what use is it to gain all the wealth and power of this world, with everything it could offer you, at the cost of your own life and character?'" (TPT).

† Philippians 2:13, "For God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey Him and the power to do what pleases Him" (NLT).

† 2 Corinthians 3:18b, "As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like Him" (TLB).

† 2 Corinthians 12:9, "'My grace is always more than enough for you, and my power finds its full expression through your weakness.' So I will celebrate my weaknesses, for when I'm weak I sense more deeply the mighty power of Christ living in me" (TPT).

† Psalms 50:23a, "Giving thanks is a sacrifice that truly honors Me" (GNT).

† Psalms 97:12, "All you that are righteous be glad because of what the Lord has done! Remember what the holy God has done, and give thanks to Him" (GNT).

- A third way we can give thanks to God is by \_\_\_\_\_. What experience has God used that has changed your life (ex., mission trip, Bible study group, a friend, a ministry, sharing your faith, etc.) that you need to thank God for right now? \_\_\_\_\_

**5. For the \_\_\_\_\_ God has prepared for me.**

† John 14:2-3, "Jesus said, 'There is more than enough room in My Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with Me where I am'" (NLT).

† Matthew 25:34, "Jesus said, 'Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world'" (NLT).

† 1 Corinthians 2:9, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him" (NLT).

† Revelation 21:4, "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes and eliminate death entirely. No one will mourn or weep any longer. The pain of wounds will no longer exist, for the old order has ceased and is gone forever" (TPT).

† 2 Corinthians 5:10, "For one day we will all be openly revealed before Christ on His throne so that each of us will be duly recompensed for our actions done in life, whether good or worthless" (TPT).

† Revelation 21:1, "I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone" (NLT).

† 1 Peter 1:4-6, "God has reserved for His children the priceless gift of eternal life; it is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. <sup>5</sup>And God, in His mighty power, will make sure that you get there safely to receive it because you are trusting Him. It will be yours in that coming last day for all to see. <sup>6</sup>So be truly glad! There is wonderful joy ahead, even though the going is tough for a while down here" (TLB).

† John 10:28-29, "Jesus said, 'I give to them the gift of eternal life and they will never be lost and no one has the power to snatch them out of My hands. <sup>29</sup>My Father, who has given them to Me as His gift, is the mightiest of all, and no one has the power to snatch them from My Father's care'" (TPT).

† 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, 14, 18, "We are pressed on every side by troubles, but not crushed and broken. We are perplexed because we don't know why things happen as they do, but we don't give up and quit. <sup>9</sup>We are hunted down, but God never abandons us. We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going . . . <sup>14</sup>We know that the same God who brought the Lord Jesus back from death will also bring us back to life again with Jesus and present us to Him along with you . . . <sup>18</sup>So we do not look at what we can see right now, the troubles all around us, but we look forward to the joys in heaven which we have not yet seen. The troubles will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever" (TLB).

- The fourth way we can give thanks to God is by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.