November 26, 2026

Thanksgiving Beyond The Table

November Series: Live Generously
Week Focus: Gratitude With Open Hands

Scripture – 2 Corinthians 9:12–13 (NIV) – *"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else."*

Devotional Reflection

THANKSGIVING SHOULD BE MORE THAN SOMETHING WE EXPRESS; IT SHOULD INFLUENCE THE WAY WE LIVE. In 2 Corinthians 9:12–13, Paul explains that the Corinthians' generosity would meet genuine needs and produce thanksgiving and praise to God. Their service became an occasion for others to recognize God's goodness. The attention was not meant to remain on the people giving, but to rise toward the God whose grace made their generosity possible.

On Thanksgiving Day, many of us pause to appreciate family, friendships, provision, and the blessings we have received. These expressions of gratitude are meaningful, but Christian thanksgiving reaches deeper than our circumstances. Through Jesus Christ, God has given us forgiveness, reconciliation, and the hope of eternal life. Even when life is difficult or our resources are limited, His grace remains a reason for gratitude. **OUR GREATEST REASON FOR THANKSGIVING IS THE GRACE OF GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.**

Gratitude can also influence how we treat others. It may lead us to encourage someone, include a person who feels overlooked, share what we responsibly can, or respond compassionately to a genuine need. These actions should not become obligations imposed on everyone during a holiday. Rather, they are opportunities to express thankfulness through sincere love, without expecting appreciation or recognition in return.

Today, whether you gather around a table, spend time with others, work, or experience a quieter Thanksgiving, remember that gratitude is not limited to a celebration. Consider how God's grace can shape your attitude and one practical decision. A thankful heart does more than recognize blessings; it increasingly reflects God's generosity in everyday life. **LET YOUR THANKSGIVING REACH BEYOND THE TABLE.**

🔥 FOCUS FOR TODAY

Gratitude for God's grace should shape both our expressions of thanksgiving and our everyday actions.

🛠️ PRACTICE

- **Thank God intentionally.** Identify specific reasons for gratitude, beginning with His grace through Jesus Christ.
- **Encourage someone.** Express sincere appreciation or offer encouragement to a person who may need it.
- **Let gratitude become action.** If an appropriate opportunity arises, demonstrate thankfulness through compassion, generosity, or practical service.

🙏 PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your faithfulness and the grace You have given me through Jesus Christ. On this Thanksgiving Day, help me recognize that my greatest blessing is not found in what I possess but in what You have provided through Your Son. Remember those who are grieving, struggling, lonely, or facing difficult circumstances today. Teach me to express gratitude without overlooking the needs of others. May my thanksgiving become visible through compassion, encouragement, and sincere generosity, and may all praise return to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

✍️ REFLECTION QUESTION

How can I allow gratitude for God's grace to influence the way I treat someone today?

TODAY'S TRANSFORMATION TRUTH

TRUE THANKSGIVING REACHES BEYOND OUR WORDS AND INTO THE WAY WE LIVE.