

Gratitude

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I. Communicating involves three things.

- A. Tell what you're going to say.
- B. Tell them.
- C. Tell them what you told them.

II. Thankfulness.

A. In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

- 1. Gratitude is acknowledgement of divine favor.
- 2. We should give God praise continually. (Hebrews 13:15; 2 Corinthians 9:15)

B. Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit, desiring to know good from evil. (Genesis 3:6-13)

- 1. It may not be necessary to know good from evil but it is necessary to know what God says.
- 2. Children can't understand good from evil but they can understand what daddy says.
- 3. This conference site is a beautiful place but no place compares to the Garden of Eden.
- 4. Eve was captivated by the idea that this fruit could make her wise because she wasn't satisfied, giving thanks to God for all she had.
- 5. After she ate the fruit she got an eye-opener that she regretted, being deceived. (1 Timothy 2:13)
- 6. Be careful to give God thanks in the midst of good things—food, health, educational opportunities, etc.
- 7. Israel soon forgot God's works and refused to give thanks. (Psalm 106:13-15)
 - a. When you are tempted to complain do you forget the works of God?
 - b. Is there something in your life that steals your joy?
 - c. It is good to have landmarks in our lives that recall our difficulties when God brought us through.
 - d. We need to wait for God's counsel when facing decisions.

e. Israel complained about many of the same things we murmur about.

1. Food, clothing, accommodations.
4. So God brought quail to provide meat but they were not satisfied.
5. We should be careful to be thankful. (1 Corinthians 10:10-11)
6. We should do all things without murmuring, having a grateful heart toward God. (Philippians 2:14)

C. God has ways of teaching us thankfulness, which often involves suffering.

1. In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
2. Be careful for nothing but in everything give thanks. (Philippians 4:6-7)
3. Mary and Martha teach us that being bothered about things in this life is not God's will (Luke 10:38-42)
4. Trusting in man brings a snare but trusting in the Lord brings blessing (Jeremiah 17:5-8)
5. Living for this world only is foolish. (Luke 12:13-21)
6. Only one of the twelve lepers whom Jesus healed returned to give thanks. (Luke 17:11-19)
7. Ungratefulness is a sin. (Romans 1:21)
8. Un-thankfulness marks the apostasy of the last day. (2 Timothy 3:2)
9. Since leaving home I have written to my father almost weekly because he did a lot for me.
10. Do you need to write a letter to your mom to express thanks?

III. Conclusion: *Showing gratitude will change your life, opening your heart to God's blessings.*