

Sunday 7th December, 2008.

Theme: Our month of Thanksgiving (Jeremiah 30: 19)

Text: Ps. 100

Thanksgiving: Not Just A month

This month, by the grace of God, we are dedicating ourselves and services to give thanks to the Lord. The Lord has said in his word in Jeremiah 30: 18 – 20 that out of our mouths and our lives shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of them that make merry and he said that he will multiply us and we shall not be few and we shall not be small.

It is natural that this should be a follow-up to our month of possessing our possessions November. It is also the best way for us to round up a year that has been so filled with blessings and benefits. The Lord told us that this year is our year of higher level and he has been faithful to His word. We need to thank him at all times because he has done great to things for us.

Looking at Ps. 100 the Psalmist says: make a joyful noise to the Lord, all ye his land. He went ahead to state why we needed to do that which is because he is the one that made us and he is our God.

Most times we struggle and tend to behave as if we made ourselves and can provide solutions to our problems. No. The Psalmist says: “we are the sheep of his pastures”. That

demonstrates how tender we are. It demonstrates how helpless we are.

Very briefly, let us answer a few questions:

1. What does it mean to give thanks to the Lord?
2. How can we give thanks to the Lord?
3. When should we give thanks?

What is thanksgiving?

The Webster online dictionary defines thanksgiving as:

1. The act of giving thanks;
2. A prayer expressing gratitude;
3. A public acknowledgement or celebration of divine goodness;
4. An expression of this; especially a formal, often public expression of thanks to God in the form of a prayer, etc.

The Lord actually ordained the feast of Thanksgiving and specified clearly what should be done during the feast of thanksgiving - In Leviticus 7: 11-15.

How do we give thanks to the Lord?

One thing that is indeed very instructive about thanksgiving is the outward part of it. From the definition above, we can notice that there is always the public part of giving thanksgiving to the Lord. No wonder that the Lord told us in Mat. 6:6-7 that we should pray in the secret so that our father who rewards our prayers will do that openly.

We can give God our thanksgiving through singing, dancing and giving testimonies. Particularly we can come to him as he has commanded the children of Israel to do with their thanksgiving sacrifice.

When should we give thanks?

- When God has done something and we are expressing our appreciation.
- When the Lord has promised to do some things and we are still holding on to his promises to do them. This is how Jesus Christ always used to get things done by his father. He would always thank his father for doing whatever he wanted to ask for in advance.
- When we are troubled or afraid or even in trouble – Ph. 4: 6-7.

Above all, we are commanded to give thanks to the Lord always: “In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” (1 The. 5: 18).

Paul in his second letter to the Thessalonians wrote: “We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers.” (2 The. 1: 2). This is a suggestion that we need to give thanks at all times. Thanksgiving must proceed from us in the morning; in the evening; at night and always.

Remember, thanksgiving is not just for a day, a month or a season. We need to live a life of thanksgiving to the Lord.

By Pastor Patrick Tolani.