

Gratitude is an Essential Attitude for Sons

One of the most important lessons I learnt after being baptised in the Holy Spirit in the early 1980s was to be thankful. My life ever since has been one of always giving thanks to Father at the end of each day and being thankful for everything that's happened. Being thankful for everything was counter-intuitive from my training in life as a person, but it made a great deal of difference in producing stability in me when I applied it wholeheartedly over the long term.

As I've grown in my sonship, I've been reprogrammed from life's training in many other areas as well. The biggest have been: No striving; no performing; no regrets; and no disappointments. In addition, and in the arena of being thankful, gratitude is another area in which I've changed.

Gratitude is an attitude that moves beyond being thankful to a life of surrender with thankfulness as the focus. For example, I can be thankful, but not grateful. That may seem illogical, but from my perspective, ingratitude is much bigger than being unthankful. Gratitude is a positive lifestyle, whereas, thankfulness can be a moment-by-moment expression of appreciation.

Gratitude is not a topic that Christians are taught, possibly because it doesn't appear in the KJV, which has been the basis of church training for centuries. 'Gratitude' and 'grateful' don't appear in the NKJV either, but they do appear 3 times in the NIV's NT. 'Thanksgiving' occurs in many places in the whole of the Bible, so that's most likely why it has been the focus of teaching, rather than gratitude.

As Father is the one who we should be listening to, in preference to Bible teachers, what are his thoughts on gratitude. That's the important thing to check. Here's what he's conveyed to us recently:

*"You can't imagine the power that **gratitude** can have in your life. As you give me thanks, I refine your soul and remove regret from your life. I will free you when you give me thanks. The more satisfied you are with me, the more satisfied you will be in all areas of your life... To receive my blessings and be **consumed with gratitude** are marks of a true worshipper... I call you to a **life of gratitude**. I long for you to discover the power of a **grateful heart**."*¹

Gratitude is most definitely of major importance to us. We need to assess it by thinking about our life responses, and then meditating on gratitude so it becomes important, and then work on fostering it in our lives. Father promises great outcomes when we do become grateful, so it's obviously essential for us to live a life of gratitude. That's gratitude for everything, including the unpleasant processes Father puts us through to mold² and shape us.

Update:

*"When you reflect back on your life, do not just remember the challenges, difficulties and failures; remember the times of overcoming, being triumphant, and succeeding. Your life has not been just one or the other. You have had highs and lows. The high points have given you courage, and the low points have brought instruction and correction. **Be thankful in all things.**"*³

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(Readers will need to look up for themselves any scriptures alluded to in this document)

1 – Brian Simmons (24-7-2023) "I Hear His Whisper..." "Discover the power of a grateful heart" [distributed e-newsletter]

mailchi.mp/broadstreetpublishing/00000-620198 OR

us10.campaign-archive.com/?u=8c3eb957a5ad87253d475a511&id=f50ccfd3ab

2 – Mould is a fungus.

3 – Marsha Burns "Small Straws in the Soft Wind" Sept. 12, 2023) f111.com/smallstraws.htm [ARCHIVE: f111.com/straws2023.htm]