



Pastor's Comments

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Northampton Assembly of God

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Continual Thanksgiving

It is great that we set aside one day to give thanks to God, but according to the Bible, **Thanksgiving should be continual**—not limited to a single day or season.

The Bible commands us to give continual thanks to Him, ***“In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you”*** (1 Thessalonians 5:18). In Ephesians 5:19-20 we read that we should be, ***“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*** One day during the Thanksgiving season of 1999 I was doing just that—praying and **expressing thanks to the Lord** with my heart filled with gratitude to Him for all that He had done for me throughout my life. Suddenly I became aware that I was singing the words and melody of a chorus that I had never heard before, **“Lord, I thank You for all You have done. Father, thank You for giving Your only Son. Thank You Jesus for dying for me—there on the cross of Calvary.”** Since then we often sing that chorus in our church services throughout the year as well as during the Thanksgiving season.

We have so many bountiful blessings for which **we continually owe the Lord our thanks**. Most importantly, **we continually owe Him great thanks for our salvation** even if the Lord did nothing else for us materially. In fact, **He is worthy of our exuberant praise on the basis alone of Who He is!** We should praise Him because He is holy, just, righteous, merciful, faithful, loving, etc. In Psalm 34:1 David said, **“I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.”** Hebrew 13:15 instructs, **“Let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.”**