



Pastor's Comments

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Humble Gratefulness

Gratefulness springs from **humility–ingratitude** from **pride**. The dictionary defines gratefulness as “**appreciation of benefits received.**” Gratefulness is **recognizing the benefits which God and others have provided.** The grateful person feels a great **sense of unworthiness**, “I have so much more than I deserve,” which reveals a **humble** heart, but the **ungrateful** person feels, “I deserve so much more than I have,” which exposes a **proudful** heart. It was the beautiful **character trait of humble gratefulness** that so attracted Boaz to Ruth in Ruth 2:10, “Then she **fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldst take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?**”

A grateful heart is **conscious of God and others**, while an ungrateful person is self-centered. Grateful people **see the needs others**, but ungrateful people tend to focus on “my needs,” “my feelings,” “my hurts,” “my desires,” “how I have been treated, neglected, failed, or wounded.” An **ungrateful person is proud–full of himself**; his whole world revolves around himself. He seldom pauses to consider the needs and feelings of others. Haman is an example of this in Esther 6:6, “And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour? Now Haman **thought in his heart, to whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself?**” As a result of this preoccupation with self, ungrateful people are typically “graspy” and demanding, bent on gratifying themselves. On the other hand, **grateful** people are free to be “**giving, loving, and caring, with a desire to bless others.**”

Humility is the catalyst for a grateful heart out of which flows thanksgiving!

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