



## *Pastor's Comments*

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Daniel E. Lundmark

[pastor@NAOG.ws](mailto:pastor@NAOG.ws)

### **Thanksgiving's Foundation**

In Rev. 11:16,17 we read, "And the four and twenty elders...worshipped God, saying, **We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty...because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.**" The elders, representing the redeemed of all ages, are **giving thanks to God because He is ruling by His divine power** and will judge the rebellious and reward those that fear God (v.18). They are **thanking God because He is God** not particularly for anything they received from Him. Of course, we should thank God for all He has given us, but **we should thank Him even if we don't think our circumstances warrant it!** The Bible commands, "**In everything give thanks:** for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (I Thess. 5:18). **God is worthy of our thanks and praise!** God is holy, just, good, pure, 100% perfect! God has never done even one thing wrong! God has never even once wrongly treated us! **Our concept of God is foundational!** It will affect our attitude toward God and determine whether we thank and praise God or murmur, complain, and curse God! Job's example of this is beautiful! After hearing that all his possessions were destroyed and that his seven sons and three daughters were dead he responded, "...the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; **blessed be the name of the Lord**" (Job 1:21). Job did not blame or accuse God but rather "**blessed**" God! **Can you still thank God when all seems to go wrong?**

When Paul traces the downward path of mankind, he begins by saying that men, "when they knew God...**glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful**" (Rom. 1:21). Their concept of God was deficient! **An accurate concept of God elicits overflowing gratitude and thanksgiving to Him!** If you can find no reason to be thankful to God, you had better investigate the underlying cause—a wrong concept of God.

### ***Northampton Assembly of God***

3449 Cherryville Rd., Northampton, PA

Sun. 10:45 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7:30 pm

610-262-5645

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