

Joy

Part 3: Thankful For Your Bright Future

God desires for you to enjoy your life, right here, right now.

And in this series, we are going to discover how the principle of continual thanksgiving is the key to a joy filled life.

Psalms 95:1-2 // “O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a **joyful** noise...2 Let us come before his presence with **thanksgiving**, and make a **joyful** noise”

Isiah 51:3 // “For the Lord shall comfort ...**joy** and gladness shall be found therein, **thanksgiving**, and the voice of melody.”

In both of these verses we see that giving of thanks is tied to joyfulness.

Over the next few weeks we will point out how critical having a lifestyle of thanksgiving is to having joy in your life.

If you find your life lacking joy, it is wholeheartedly tied to the fact that you've forgotten how important a lifestyle of giving thanks is.

The only way to come out of a season of unhappiness is to begin to find opportunity to give thanks at all times.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 // In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

Paul encourages us to give thanks in every situation

No matter what we are going through there is always opportunity to give thanks and find joyfulness.

This requires a conscious daily choice!

Hebrews 13:15 // Through Him, therefore, let us at all times offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, which is the fruit of lips that thankfully acknowledge and confess and glorify His name.

To live a life of thanksgiving requires "a sacrifice of praise" often.

Three Areas where you can always find things to be thankful

- Your Past •

- Your Present •

- Your Future •

- Your Past •

- We can always look back and be thankful for the people that have blessed our lives.

- We can always look back and be thankful for past victories, even if we don't feel like we are experiencing victory in the present.

- Your Present •

- There are always little, often overlooked, blessing for which to be thankful

- There are always spiritual things for which we can be thankful right now

- There is the promise of the treasure of God in our lives presently for which we can be thankful

Today we will be focusing on the power and impact thanksgiving for the things in our future can have upon our joyfulness

Many people don't have joy because of their view of the future.

There is a secret of thanksgiving that most overlook that can rid of worries and actually empower your faith to change the horizon of even the darkest futures.

Philippians 4:6 // Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart.

Paul told us not to worry about anything.

This is a command that most believers see as an option.

Some ever see worry as an imbedded character trait over which they have no control.

Worry is simply a down payment on a not yet determined future.

Deuteronomy 30:19 // This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life...

Our futures are determined by the choices we make.

Philippians 4:6 // Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

We are commanded to make the choice to not worry!

Many are taking their worries and requests to God and begging Him for their desired outcome.

- They are not casting their worries, with joyful hearts, on someone that is willing and more than capable of delivering their desired outcome.

- They also are not leaving their place of prayer with the joy of having their hands full of what they've requested.

Notice we are told to bring our worries and prayer request to God "with thanksgiving"

Simply make your request with a "**Thank you**" instead of a "oh please help"

It's the difference in asking in joy filled faith or asking with fearful worry.

Hebrews 11:1 // What is faith? It is the confident assurance that **something we want is going to happen**. It is the certainty that what we hope for is waiting for us, even though we cannot see it up ahead.

Faith will give thanks for things that it does not see yet

Faith says " I possess my bright future right now with a thankful heart simply because God has promised it"

Romans 4:20-21 // 20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; 21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

Notice that Abraham gave glory to God even before he saw his answer.

He chose to visualize himself with the answer and let the fruit of his lips offer up thanksgiving and praise for it.

He chose the thoughts of God about His future instead of thoughts of worry and dread.

Jeremiah 29:11 // For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for.

Notice that God has thoughts for you.

And that is what Abraham was giving thanks to God for!

When we allow our joy filled faith to set the stage for a bright, bright future!

This is the attitude of Thanksgiving the Apostle Paul practiced and encouraged us to embrace.

1 Corinthians 15:57 // But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 2:14 // Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ..

In both of these instances Paul was thinking God for what had not yet happened.

Choosing a lifestyle of thanksgiving for the bright future God has promised is another way we can find joy in any and every circumstance we face.

Psalms 50:14 & 23 // 14 Offer unto God thanksgiving... 23 He who sacrifices thank offerings honors me, and he prepares the way so that I may show him the salvation of God.

Choosing to give the sacrifice of praise for the bright future God has promised you is a key to joy and a key to actually possessing what God has planned for you.

Psalms 95:1-2 // 1 "O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyfulnoise...2 Let us come before his presence with **thanksgiving**, and make a joyfulnoise"

We can give thanks for three critical parts of our lives:

- **For our Past** (The people and the victories)
- **For our present** (The little things, the spiritual things, and for God himself)
- **For our future** (For the promises of God that insure our hopes and dreams)

Let's make the choice to be a people of Thanksgiving in every situation of life!