



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

The Power of Thanksgiving

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Thanksgiving or the ability to say thank you, is the earliest behavior of good conduct that we learned, even before we learned to pray. But, as we grew and accumulated experiences, knowledge, both spiritual and secular, our concept of thanksgiving has changed; we have become jaded and dismissive of the blessings that we have. Let us bring back the spirit of being thankful for everything. It is one of the marks of a person who believes in the goodness of God.

The Power of Thanksgiving:

1. Thanksgiving opens up the door for God's many blessings.

- It is the antidote to complaining. God will be pleased with us when we know how to recognize goodness and "utang na loob".
- Complaining is a stumbling block because it does not give merit to God. The Israelites were delivered from slavery in Egypt but instead of being grateful, they were grumbling to Moses (Exo. 13-17).

2. Thanksgiving removes our eyes from ourselves and instead focuses us on the Lord or the people He sent.

- Whatever brings us out of ourselves is due to the Holy Spirit.
- When we are thankful, we are always looking outward, or looking to others and to God.
- Thanksgiving is the antidote to selfishness and self-insufficiency; we begin to rely on others and the orchestration of God

3. Thanksgiving helps us recognize that we have so much to be thankful for.

- Focus on what you have and what you can grow instead of focusing on what you do not have.
- Let us be creative in recognizing the good works of God, and in recognizing all the events that happen or do not happen in our daily lives. Even inconveniences and troubles lead to something for you or for others.

- Giving thanks is a memory of the heart. Let us all have a thankful attitude.

4. God is the ultimate giver.

- Let us put more premium or importance on the giver rather than on the gift itself.
- Only a person with a grateful heart will recognize the ultimate gift, which is eternal life. Even if we do not have material things, eternal life is before us.
- God may be using various instruments or people in our lives, but in the end, He is the ultimate giver.

5. Thanksgiving makes the enemy flee.

- The devil flees from a person who is still thankful despite his misfortunes. The devil cannot stand a person oozing with praise and thanksgiving.
- Out of misery, something good will come out.
- In everything and in all circumstances, let us praise and thank the Lord.
- The generosity of generous people springs from their thankful heart (2 Cor. 9:11).
- Always find something to be thankful for, even in difficult times (1 Thes. 5: 16-18).

Everytime we THANK the Lord, we THINK of Him.

I am thinking of you because of what you have done for me. It could be another person used as an instrument by God, or it could be God Himself.

- GOD can draw good from evil, can turn our pain into gain, mistakes into lessons, our hurts into halo.
- Difficulties are fleeting. Stop focusing on complaining or being sad.
- Be hopeful and faithful to the promises of God because He is in control of everything. He will not allow us to continue living in misery because He loves us more than we can imagine.
- Trust that He has beautiful plans for each one of us. We are all recipients of eternal life. Look forward to the happy ending.

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