



Wayne's Words

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Giving Thanks is Lifegiving

For what can you express unhesitant thanks to God?

The practice of giving heartfelt thanks is a pathway to greater clarity about who God is and to increasing trust in God's goodness. By contrast, Romans 1:18f speaks of the flow on effects of the failure to give thanks to God whose divine power is evident to all in the creation: people's 'thinking becomes futile and their foolish hearts darkened.' This leads to increasing godlessness of behaviour.

The psalms testify that thanksgiving is the way to approach God. (Ps 100:4 'I will enter his gates with thanksgiving...') In scripture the question is asked, 'How can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me?' A three-part response is given. 'I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord ... I will sacrifice a thank offering ... and fulfil my vows to the Lord ...' (Ps 116:12-19)

Giving thanks is one of the first lessons we teach our children and is fundamental to nurturing harmony, trust and affection in human relationships. Giving thanks to God includes calling on his name, placing our lives in his care and direction, and rejoicing in the salvation he has provided for us in his son, Jesus.

This Sunday is Harvest Thanksgiving, a time to thank God for his provision of the food that sustains our lives. It is an occasion when we bring fresh vegetables and fruit as well as non-perishable food items as a 'thank offering'. These are distributed to those in need. God provides through his people and instructs those who have plenty to share with those who lack.

You are invited to make this a meaningful time of thanksgiving to God for all his goodness to you. A delightful consequence is the overflow of thanks to God from those who will be blessed by your thanksgiving and generosity.

The Lord be with you,
Wayne