

BE THANKFUL FOR WHO YOU ARE

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Scripture lessons: Job 1: 13-22, 1Thessalonians 5:12-22, Psalm 100

One of the most important qualities we have to develop in a Christian life is thankfulness. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, "Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus." But are we thankful for everything that happens to us? Probably not.

Job was a successful man at first. He had a good family, successful business, and he was one of the richest men around. In one minute, he lost everything, including his health. How was he able to avoid becoming bitter? How was he able to still praise God?

One of the most common struggles we have as Christians is being thankful for everything. Psalm 139:14 says "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Each of us is made in God's own image. In him we are loved, cared for, and protected. And yet, we complain about our lives, our jobs, our families, our bodies, our hair, the way we are.

The youth in my congregation like to play basketball, but they are shorter than most other Canadians so they have to jump higher. Even when I tell them that they have many other skills and can do other things, they still complain about being short because they like to play basketball.

Even billionaires, millionaires, successful businessmen and the most famous people in the world are not satisfied with what they have. And that is because although fame and success in life might give you some of happiness in your life, none of those things can give you true happiness, true joy.

How we can become truly thankful? The answer is that if we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we can know that Jesus Christ is in charge of our life. Psalm 55:22a says, "Give your burdens, to the LORD and he will care for you." Unless you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior you can't be truly thankful for who you are.

The results of accepting Jesus Christ as your LORD are:

- You will be a new person inside
- You will be called a child of the most high God

- Your joy will not be simply a moment of happiness. It will last forever.
- You will give your life to God without questioning because you will know you can trust him
- Your life and your family will be blessed
- You will know how to face problems and challenges

We can be thankful for all of these things, and many more! Matthew 6:33 says to seek first the kingdom of God, and then everything else will be given to us. Even if we don't get rich or successful or famous, we will have a true joy that is only found in Jesus.

Look again at the words of praise in Job 1:21b: "The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD." Why can Job praise God in difficult times when he sees no future for his life? Because he knows that his life is owned by the LORD. Job knew how to be thankful for who he is because he knew that God was in charge of his life.

Is Jesus in charge of your life? Then you can be thankful too. Amen.