

Pastor John Friedlund

Luke 17:11-19

Thankfulness is an _____. An attitude is a choice I make. A choice that does not have to be dependent upon my _____.

Whether or not I have a thankful _____ is totally up to ME.

Gratitude is a quality similar to _____: it must be produced and discharged and used up in order to exist at all.

~ William Faulkner ~

A refreshing perspective on life:

I'm thankful for the taxes I pay, because it means that I'm employed.

I'm thankful for the mess to clean up after a party, because it means I have been surrounded by _____.

I'm thankful for the clothes that fit a little too snug, because it means I have enough to eat.

I'm thankful for a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning, and gutters that need fixing, because it means I have a home.

I'm thankful for all the complaining I hear about our government, because it means we have freedom of speech.

I'm thankful for my higher-than-normal heating bill, because it means I am warm.

I'm thankful for the lady behind me in church who sings off key, because it means that I can _____.

I'm thankful for the piles of laundry and ironing, because it means I have clothes to wear...and the kids are still at home.

The person who has stopped being thankful
has fallen _____ in life.

~ Robert Louis Stevenson ~

Will you be the ONE? November 22, 2009

Are we seeking the thrill of the blessing, or to offer praise and worship to the God who gives that blessing? Has my image of God taken on the shape of a _____ machine?

Praise to God is at the heart of authentic faith. One of the things Jesus is teaching in this passage is that where there is _____ faith there are deeply thankful hearts.

...joyfully give thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has _____ us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. *Colossians 1:11-14*

The New Testament is clear: believing hearts are hearts that praise and glorify God. Did you notice that in every one of these references to praising God, Jesus is the reason? As people of faith, our praise to God must be radically _____ centered. Saving faith does not vaguely give glory to some divine being, some mysterious higher power. We are given a clear model of praise and worship to God the Father, through Jesus the Son. Consider Hebrews 13:15 *"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise, the fruit of lips that confess his name."*

Has my image of God
taken on the shape of
a vending machine?

You are _____, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. Worthy is the lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise. *Revelation 5:12*