 ***Happy Thanksgiving!***

**> What is THANKSGIVING?** It is the aspect of **PRAISE** that gives thanks to God for what He has done, is doing, and will do for us (**Psalm 100**).

***- Ideally, thanksgiving should spring from a GRATEFUL HEART;*** but it is required of all believers, regardless of their situation, circumstance or feelings. Listen to King David in his song found in **1 Chronicles 16:8** - *Oh,* ***give thanks to the LORD!*** *Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples!* Also verse **34** *- Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!* ***For His mercy endures forever****.*

***- We are thankful for God’s work of SALVATION***, Paul expresses his gratefulness in **Romans 7:24-25** - *O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death****? I thank God — through Jesus Christ our Lord!***

- ***We are also thankful for His SANCTIFICATION,*** meaning His continuous work in our lives, in **1Thessalonians 1:2-4 -** *We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.*

- ***We should be grateful to God for all things, this is being SPIRIT-FILLED***,

**Ephesians 5:18-21** - ***be filled with the Spirit,*** *speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,* ***giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,*** *submitting to one another in the fear of God*.

**- What is the opposite of Thanksgiving?** To be ungrateful, expecting, deserving, self-centered, complaining, never content, “I’m sooo worth it”; “You don’t know how lucky you are!” Being unthankful is listed as evil character trait of those rebelling against God in the last days, turn to **2 Timothy 3:1-5**.

### *> Five Keys to PRACTICING & PROCLAIMING Thanksgiving!*

**#1 – Give thanks in PRAYER!** - **Philippians 4:6-7 -** *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.* **(Mark 4:35-41)**

**#2 – Give thanks as a LIFESTYLE!** **- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 -** “*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing****, in everything give thanks****; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*

**#3 – Give thanks for His daily PROVISIONS!** – **John 6:1-14 –** Every time we say ***“grace”*** at a meal we give thanks to the Lord for His daily provision; we also proclaim our belief in God as our Creator/Provider and we follow our Lord’s example.

**#4 – Give thanks in PRAISE!** - **Hebrews 13:15 -** *Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips,* ***giving thanks to His name****. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased*.

**- Listen to the Psalmist - Psalm 107:31-32 -** *Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men! Let them exalt Him also in the assembly of the people, and praise Him in the company of the elders.*

**Psalm 118:28-29-** *You are my God, and I will praise You; You are my God, I will exalt You. Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.*

- Observe the power of ***“praise and thanksgiving”*** in **Acts 16:25-34.**

**#5 – Give thanks for FAMILY, FRIENDS and FELLOWSHIP!** - **Philippians 1:3-8-** ***I thank my God upon every remembrance of you****, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.*

**> PRACTICE and PROCLAIM these five keys of THANKSGIVING and you’ll be guaranteed a blessed life, marriage and family!**

***Happy Thanksgiving!***