The Supernatural Power of Thanksgiving
Creflo Dollar
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Summary

There is much to be said for a grateful heart. When bad things happen, thanking God may be the last thing on our minds; however, learning how to thank and praise Him unleashes tremendous power in the spiritual realm. What many people may fail to understand is that we do not thank God for the situation, but in the midst of it; there is a difference. Giving Him our thanks and praise for the good things He has already done in our lives should not be a one-time event or an occasional afterthought, but a deliberate, continual lifestyle choice. God is waiting for us to be thankful so that He can perfect His plan and His purpose for our lives. Our thankfulness gets heaven’s attention. Praising and glorifying Him during our darkest times causes supernatural things to happen that we cannot take the credit for.

A. There is power in remembering what God did for us in the past, and thanking Him for it.

1. We do not give thanks for everything, but in everything. No matter what happens, we can continually appreciate God for His wonderful acts.
   a. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you (1 Thessalonians 5:18).
   b. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus (1 Thessalonians 5:18, NLT).

2. And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan...And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole (Luke 17:13-16, 19).
   a. The Samaritans and the Jews were not on good terms, yet the leper did not hesitate to thank and praise Jesus. When God shows up to do something for us, it makes us forget petty differences and divisions, and instead thank and praise Him.
   b. Giving thanks and praise for God’s intervention opens the door to wholeness, with nothing missing and nothing broken.
3. And now, O ye priests, this commandment is for you. If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart (Malachi 2:1, 2).
   a. We must take it to heart to continually walk in thanksgiving. Under the law, failure to give thanks to God brought a curse. Even though the law has ended, it is still to our benefit to be thankful.

4. Jesus understood the power of thanksgiving. He used it as a tool to bring about supernatural results, and a solution to every circumstance. He gave thanks in seemingly hopeless situations.
   a. And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would. When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost (John 6:11, 12).
   b. Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me (John 11:41).

B. When we give thanks, all of heaven is on our side. Thanking works in our favor.
1. In his lifetime, David never lost a battle. He was consistently victorious because the supernatural was always at work in his favor. David always intentionally gave thanks to God.
   a. He was in the sanctuary ten times a day. However, most of those times were spent not in prayer, but in thankfulness and appreciation of God's faithfulness.

2. And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is...And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness (Acts 4:24, 31).
   a. When the apostles were warned not to preach in Jesus’ name any more, they gave thanks instead of murmuring and complaining.
   b. Thanksgiving causes the supernatural to show up.

3. And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed (Acts 16:25, 26).
   a. When we are in a situation that holds us captive, praise and thanksgiving break the bonds of captivity. Giving thanks is the last thing the enemy wants us to do.
   b. We cannot let whatever is going on in the world distract us from thanking and glorifying God.

4. And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear (Isaiah 65:24).
   a. It is impossible to live God’s will and not to experience this. Spending time appreciating Him puts us in the supernatural.
   b. Our heavenly Father is excited to move on our behalf. He is committed to meeting our needs—even those we have not yet mentioned in prayer.
   c. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: because his mercy endureth for ever (Psalm 118:1).
C. There are three benefits that come from thanksgiving.

1. It brings down the presence of God.
   a. A life of praising God allows us to enjoy His presence at all times, but a life of complaining and murmuring destroys us.
   b. ...In thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore (Psalm 16:11).
   c. But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel (Psalm 22:3).
   d. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer (1 Corinthians 10:10).

2. It brings increase and multiplication.
   a. Giving thanks brings an increase of love, promotion, mercy, and grace.
   b. Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us (Psalm 67:5, 6).

3. It destroys the “prayer request” mentality.
   a. In light of the finished works of Jesus, we must not turn ourselves into “prayer projects.” We should instead be patient in giving thanks.
   b. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise (Hebrews 10:36).

For more on what giving thanks accomplishes in the spiritual realm, click on the link below for the DVD, *The Supernatural Power of Thanksgiving*.


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