

“Facets of Thanks”



By Mrs. Sojourner

Why is thankfulness important? God mentions it (thank, thankful, thanksgiving etc.) in His Word over 130 times. This topic must mean something to him. Well, let us consider some different facets of thankfulness.

1.) When someone thanks God for something he has done, they acknowledge the kind act he did or gift he gave and it's value.

2.) Expressing thanks is also a great opportunity to let others know (or testify to) what he did. This is something that is not necessarily done just once or just at the time. Think of it, when God heals a person's heart so they did not have to have a heart transplant, that person will, or should, tell the story over and over of how sick they were and how “suddenly” God touched their days and their heart is completely healthy. 1 Chronicles 16:8 ^(NIV) tells us “Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done.”

3.) Living a life of thankfulness teaches and then reminds one's children (biological and spiritual) of their heritage. They learn the confirmations of God's Word that exist in your life through the grateful stories

you tell of what He has done.

4.) Having a grateful heart keeps the testimonies of what God has done for us close to the surface of our hearts so if we face challenging situations we can quickly remind ourselves that our Heavenly Father is with us always and is capable of taking care of any situation we face. King David, before he was crowned king, did this when he was running from King Saul. Some of the Psalms that encourage us today are ones King David wrote at different times in his life to encourage himself in the Lord. ^(see Psalm 145)

5.) Thanking God for his goodness to us reminds him that we love him and that we acknowledge his love. Our love for each other is shared.

All of these are facets work together to build our relationship with our Heavenly Father—another key fact of thankfulness.

Notes:

[a]

8-47

The Sojourner
Sojourner's Fellowships
PO Box 955
Manchester, TN 37349

Phone: 931-409-1406
Toll Free: 800-391-6944
Skype: thesojourner3734
Email:
thesojourner@sojournershub.org



“Expectation” (Teaching Sketch)

Numbers 13:26-33



What is Expectation?

Definitions of expectation:

- belief about (or mental picture of) the future
- anticipation: anticipating with confidence of fulfillment
- the feeling that something is about to happen
- arithmetic mean: the sum of the values of a random variable divided by the number of values

Israel At Kadesh

The spies Moses had sent to spy out the land of Canaan gave their report. Canaan was the land God had promised and given them. Their report was: they had found it to be all they had been told. The spies even brought back evidence ‘and showed them the fruit of the land.’ It is interesting to note the scripture says, “They gave Moses this account: ‘We went into the land to which



Notes:

[1]

you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit.” What was being said was the spies accounting of where they had been. They gave what they saw as the positive side of their assignment first. Many people are much like these men from the 12 tribes.

All Is Well, But

They told of the wonders they had seen and then 10 of the 12 spies began to account for how difficult life would be to take possession of what had been promised them by God. ²⁸But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large.

Just like many today, they would take whatever would be given but not be willing to place themselves at a perceived risk.

This report must have been quite frightening to most of those gathered there. Can you imagine the commotion as the people began to speculate among themselves concerning

8-47

Scripture: Numbers 13:26-33 (NIV)

(NIV used to allow English speakers around the world equal understanding of the words used)

²⁶They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land.
²⁷They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. ²⁸But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. ²⁹The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan."

Notes:

[a]

Kadesh
<H6946>
Sanctuary, place
in the
Desert

[b]

³⁰Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it."

³¹But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." ³²And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. ³³We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."

Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

"Expectation" (Teaching Sketch)

Numbers 13:26-33



Notes:

[a]

or to a people, victory is certain. Self-centered is defeat. God-centered is victory!

the challenge it would be to take the land God had given them is a promise?

Strong Of Heart

Caleb wasted no time in fear and trembling but silenced the people and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it."

Those who were faint of heart were concerned about the giants in the land and the strength of the men who lived there. Like a deadly virus "they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, 'The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size.'"

Self-Perception

These 10 spies of the 12 were willing to disregard the promise of God and put themselves up as their own god by allowing their self-perception to reign rather than the God of Abraham and all creation. "We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."

God Centered Is Victory!

When God's Word is paramount in all things to a person,

Advent



This is the first week in Advent. This is the week we light the:

Prophecy Candle

Saying:

"I light the **Prophecy Candle**, which reminds us God spoke through prophets of old to tell mankind the Savior was coming to take away the sins of the world."

Read: Isaiah 53

Sing: "O' Come, O' Come Emmanuel"