

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

John 15:7

Store In My Heart Ephesians 4:32

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

The love Peter told us to develop must be active. It will be seen in our relationship with fellow Christians. The kindness, tenderness and forgiveness, encouraged by Paul will be only natural to one who develops the love that God desires in His children. By such love others will know we are of Christ.

These attitudes should come naturally to one developing the characteristics Peter mentions. The kindness, tenderness and forgiveness Paul requires here are an outgrowth of our desire to be like Christ in all things.

God has demonstrated these qualities throughout history. From the examples left for us to follow, we can see the benefit of such attitudes. Jesus was the perfect example of this attitude of concern for others more than self. Let us imitate Him always.



Thankful for His Blessings

Sean Sullivan

Thursday, November 27, is our annual Thanksgiving Day in the United States. We are truly blessed in this country, in this time, and in the hope of God. We look to God for His blessings (**Matthew 6:32-33**). We often seek those blessings when there is a direct need in our lives or the lives of others. We know that God is the source of blessings, but we are also to bless others.

We should be thankful to God that we are in a position to help others. Being able to help means that we have been blessed with more than we need, we are not surviving, we are thriving. According to **1Thessalonians 5:17-18**, our appreciation for God's blessings is expressed by praying and saying thank you to Him. Another passage teaches us a different way to demonstrate our thankfulness to God for our blessings. It is **1Timothy 6:18**, which directs the blessed by saying, "Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share."

Let's consider the Scriptural pattern that continuously teaches us that we demonstrate our thanks to God by using our blessings well.

Thankful for our Blessings. Blessings are part of our entrusted stewardship. Stewardship is a responsibility to use well what we have been given. The stewardship of our blessings involves using what we have been blessed with to improve our own lives and also to bless others (1Timothy 6:17-18).

Being good stewards of our abilities: Romans 12:3-8 speaks of many skills as blessings to be shared with others: **Prophecy:** The ability to speak God's word; so, share the word. **Ministry:** The heart of a servant; so, see to others' needs. **Teaching:** The ability to convey and instill understanding; so, teach the truth. **Exhorting:** The ability to encourage; so, uplift and strengthen others. **Giving:** The wherewithal to provide for others' needs beyond your own; so, be a giver. **Leading:** the courage to step up to responsibility; so, bring others along to success. **Being Merciful:** the ability to provide relief—so, gladly help those in need.

We express our thankfulness for our blessings by using them correctly, improving our own lives, and helping others whenever we can (**James 1:27**).

Helping in a Time of Need. In the first days of the church, many had travelled to Jerusalem for Pentecost, and there they had become Christians (**Acts 2:36-42**). Being delayed in their return home, they needed the necessities (**Acts 2:44-45**). To meet the need, the brethren rallied together to raise the money; those with the ability were willing to take the responsibility. Those who were in need were blessed.

Throughout the time of the early church, we see the pattern of those who appreciate their own blessings, helping those in need. Dorcas in Joppa (**Acts 9:36-43**). She was able to make garments to bless the widows. Epaphroditus with Paul in Rome (**Philippians 2:25-30**). Epaphroditus was able to work and did so even to the point of physical exhaustion to bless Paul. The Brethren in Antioch sent help to bless brethren in Judea during a famine (**Acts 11:27-30**). The brethren in Macedonia and Achaia realized their own blessings from God and were willing to share in a time of need (**Romans 15:25-27**).

The Thankful are Rich in Good Works. Earlier we looked at **1Timothy 6:17-19**, *“Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”* What you have, you have from God to enjoy, but also to use well. We must know that our faith, not our money, is our enduring stronghold. All the money in the world will not prepare us to meet our Lord, nor stall His return for even a moment. We must use what we have to be rich in good works—giving and sharing. There will always be good works to be accomplished (**Ephesians 2:8-10**; **2Timothy 3:16-17**; **James 2:15-17**). God is aware of our willingness to do good works, and that willingness sets a proper foundation for our future with Him.

Using our blessings expresses our thanks to God, and the blessings we share bring glory to Him (**Matthew 5:16**).

We should be thankful to God every day. We depend on God’s love, His mercy, His grace—we seek these blessings from His hand. Those who are thankful for their blessings will use them well, to improve their own lives and also the lives of those in need. The most significant need facing all men is the salvation of their souls. When we share this hope, we truly share God’s blessings. Seek the greatest blessings of God by submitting to His will and obeying His gospel. The opportunity is yours right now.

For Our Information

Jack Brooks has some discomfort from his sinus surgery.

Paula Laubach's is wearing an ankle brace and will start physical therapy soon.

JoBeth Henderson has scans and an oncologist scheduled for Tuesday.

Jim Soliday's medication change is helping. **Sue Soliday** is benefiting from chiropractor visits. **Deberah Brooks** is having some knee trouble. **Brandy Tolleson** will see a neurologist in March. **Leta Rivera** is still having trouble walking.

Sunday Evening - **Isaiah 36:4** Wednesday - **Singing**

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

Church of Christ

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The
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10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study