

THE IMPERATIVE OF THANKSGIVING

PSALM 105:1-5

INTRODUCTION

Biblical Background

Written after the return from Babylon.

They were thankful that they could come home.

First Proclamation After Plymouth

Governor Bradford of Massachusetts made this first Thanksgiving Proclamation three years after the Pilgrims settled at Plymouth:

“Inasmuch as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest of Indian corn, wheat, peas, beans, squashes, and garden vegetables, and has made the forests to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and inasmuch as He has protected us from the ravages of the savages, has spared us from pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience.

Now I, your magistrate, do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with your wives and ye little ones, do gather at ye meeting house, on ye hill, between the hours of 9 and 12 in the day time, on Thursday, November 29th, of the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and twenty-three and the third year since ye Pilgrims landed on ye Pilgrim Rock, there to listen to ye pastor and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings.”

—William Bradford
Ye Governor of Ye Colony

Washington’s Proclamation

WHEREAS, It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor;

WHEREAS, Both the houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me “to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness”!

Now, therefore, I do recommend next, to be devoted by the people of the states to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be, that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country.

—George Washington

The Psalmist gives us eight imperatives of thanksgiving...

1A. GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD (105:1A)

1 Chronicles 16:34 (ESV) — Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

For He is good

Speaks of God's moral purity and excellence.

Psalm 25:8 (ESV) — Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

Psalm 119:68 (ESV) — You are good and do good; teach me your statutes.

Nahum 1:7 (ESV) — The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him.

His steadfast love endures forever.

Steadfast love, hesed; kindness, lovingkindness, mercy, goodness, faithfulness, love, acts of kindness.

Endures forever, olam; This word describes time beyond this temporal sphere, especially when used regarding God.

God is worthy of our thanks because every good thing comes from Him.

James 1:17 (ESV) — Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

2A. CALL UPON HIS NAME (105:1B)

Psalm 116:4 (ESV) — Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!"

Psalm 116:17 (ESV) — I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord.

Psalm 118:5 (ESV) — Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free.

Psalm 145:18 (ESV) — The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

Romans 10:12 (ESV) — For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him.

3A. **MAKE KNOWN HIS DEEDS AMONG THE PEOPLES... TELL OF HIS WONDROUS WORKS (105:1A & 2B)**

Psalm 111:2 (ESV) — Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.

Psalm 145:11–12 (ESV) — They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power, to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Psalm 89:1 (ESV) — I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

Making known His deeds is the sum of our responsibility as believers.

Mark 16:15–17 (ESV) — And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned....”

4A. **SING TO HIM (105:2A)**

1 Chronicles 16:9 (ESV) — Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!

Psalm 7:17 (ESV) — I will give to the Lord the thanks due to his righteousness, and I will sing praise to the name of the Lord, the Most High.

Psalm 67:4 (ESV) — Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Selah

Colossians 3:16 (ESV) — Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Revelation 14:3 (ESV) — and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.

5A. **GLORY IN HIS NAME (105:3)**

Glory - boast in.

The name of God represents his character. While others ‘glory’ in such things as money, pleasure, sports, and career, the children of God are to glory in the attributes of God.

Jeremiah 9:23–24 (ESV) — Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.”

Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!

We can rejoice when we delight in the same things God delights in!

6A. **SEEK THE LORD AND HIS STRENGTH (105:4A)**

Seek - implies intense concentration.

In particular, the psalmist calls for his people to seek God's strength. They were to recognize their own insufficiency for the demands of living and cast themselves totally upon God's sufficiency.

Seek his strength, that is, his grace, the strength of his Spirit to work in you that which is good, which we cannot do but by strength derived from him, for which he will be enquired of. (Matthew Henry)

Psalm 119:2 (ESV) — Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart,

Lamentations 3:25 (ESV) — The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.

Deuteronomy 4:29 (ESV) — But from there you will seek the Lord your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Isaiah 55:6 (ESV) — “Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;

7A. **SEEK HIS PRESENCE CONTINUALLY**

Presence - face

Psalm 27:8 (ESV) — You have said, “Seek my face.” My heart says to you, “Your face, Lord, do I seek.”

Psalm 16:11 (ESV) — You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Psalm 140:13 (ESV) — Surely the righteous shall give thanks to your name; the upright shall dwell in your presence.

1 Peter 3:12 (ESV) — For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

1 Peter 3:18 (ESV) — For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

8A. **REMEMBER (105:5)**

Psalm 77:11 (ESV) — I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old.

His wondrous works

“Wondrous works” = great impossible feats

Psalm 72:18 (ESV) — Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

1 Chronicles 16:25 (ESV) — For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and he is to be feared above all gods.

His miracles

“miracles” = an open, obvious movement of God often used to describe a sign.

Hebrews 2:3–4 (ESV) — how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

His justice

“Judgments” = God’s judgement on sin.

Job 8:3 (ESV) — Does God pervert justice? Or does the Almighty pervert the right?

Job 34:12 (ESV) — Of a truth, God will not do wickedly, and the Almighty will not pervert justice.

Numbers 32:23 (ESV) — But if you will not do so, behold, you have sinned against the Lord, and be sure your sin will find you out.

Acts 17:30–31 (ESV) — The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

APPLICATION

Are you truly thankful?

Do you thank God?

Have you called on His name?

Are you making known His deeds?

Do you sing praise to Him?

Is your glory found in Him alone?

Are you seeking Him and His presence in your life?

Pause now and remember God’s works, miracles, and justice.