



## THE POWER OF GRATITUDE

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When mother told little Johnny to say thank you for the gift he had just received, he placed his hands on his hips and shouted, “No!” Few virtues are lacking in our nation as much as gratitude. We live in the age of “I expect it.” Followed closely by the “You should be thankful to me instead of me being thankful to you.” A failure to be thankful is one of the sins that caused God to give up the Gentiles (cf. Romans 1:21). It is a major sin today.

Thankfulness is not an option; that is if we want to be pleasing unto God: *“In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ concerning you”*(1 Thess. 5:18). Sadly, some Christians are among the most unthankful people; they walk around with a “You owe me” attitude. Those who serve the church are rarely thanked for their efforts, but they are quick to be criticized.

Dr. Albert Schweitzer wrote these wise words: *“To educate yourself for the feeling of gratitude means to take nothing for granted, but to always seek out and value the kind that will stand behind the action. Nothing that is done for you should be taken for granted. Everything originates in a will for the good, which is directed at you. Train yourself never to put off the word or action for the expression of gratitude.”*

One mother and housewife said it had been ages since any member of her family said thank you for any of the things she did for them. A waitress said eight out of ten customers complain, only two out of ten say thank you. I once wrote a traffic ticket and as I handed it to the driver, he said, “Thank you officer, I was in the wrong.” I tore the ticket up. There is power in gratitude.

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18 again, *“...in everything give thanks.”*

The Greek philosopher Epictetus said, *“He is a wise man who does not grieve for the things which he has not, but rejoices for those which he has.”*

Today, HOW will you give thanks for everything?