

P U R S U I N G R I G H T E O U S N E S S

“ P r a y e r i s t h e k e y a n d f a i t h u n l o c k s t h e d o o r ”

“Now therefore, our God, we thank You and praise Your glorious name.” (v13)

1 Chronicles 29: 10-15 (full context v 1-19)

HOW CAN I SAY THANKS

A few days ago, a surprising and yet profound thought came to me. During a telephone conversation I was having with my son, he wished me a wonderful and blessed birthday. Without any concentration on what he'd just said, I replied immediately “oh thank you son.” That's when it hit me; my very next thought almost dropped me to my knees. The next thought I had was, does he really sense how I truly appreciate what he just said to me or are we in a state of “call and response” in our communications? Is that how I'm saying thank you to God? Does He really sense that I truly appreciate Him? Am I in a state of “call and response” when I say thank you to my God? Lord how can I say thank you? Not just for what You have done, but more importantly for who You are.

In our focus scripture this month, we examined a prayer of thanksgiving from a man after God's own heart, David. David gives us some clues that will help us out of that call and response state, with one another and especially with God. When David said thank you, he poured out of his heart the very nature of the phase. That nature is a sincere reverence for the target of his thank you. David acknowledges God's presence and power, he expresses thanks out of his respect for who God is, as well as he remembers that the things that he is grateful for, use to and in fact still does belong to God. When David said thank you, God felt his appreciation coming from the depths of his heart.

So what about you and I, we say, thank you, we think, thank you and we even sing, thank you all the time. What can we do to insure God knows feel our gratefulness? Often most of us say thank you and we focus our response on something that was done, being done or yet to be done. What I call the “call and response” thank you. We should always acknowledge this aspect, but our focus should be based in a respect for the target of our thank you. Saying thank you should be a gift returned for a gift given. Lord, how can I say thank you and make it a gift I give back for a gift given?

Prayers of thanksgiving are one of five basic types of prayer. God not only wants to hear our thank you, he desires to feel our appreciation. Like David, when we say thank you, we should remember it is a gift. A gift that is given out of respect for the target of our thank you. This month, we will celebrate a day known around the world as Thanksgiving. Like most of our holidays, we have forgotten the essence of the day we celebrate. This day was set aside to say thank you for the bountifulness of the harvest and the relationships between the peoples united in the celebration. This is not an attempt to change how you celebrate Thanksgiving. It is however, an attempt to change how we say thank you. How can I say thank you, by first respecting the target, and then remembering saying thank you is a gift. God desires to feel your gratefulness not just hear us say I'm grateful. Lord I love you and I am grateful that you are who you are. God is love.

((A church that prays together, grows in faith together))

L e t u s p r a y

DEACON LARRY DAVIS 11/07