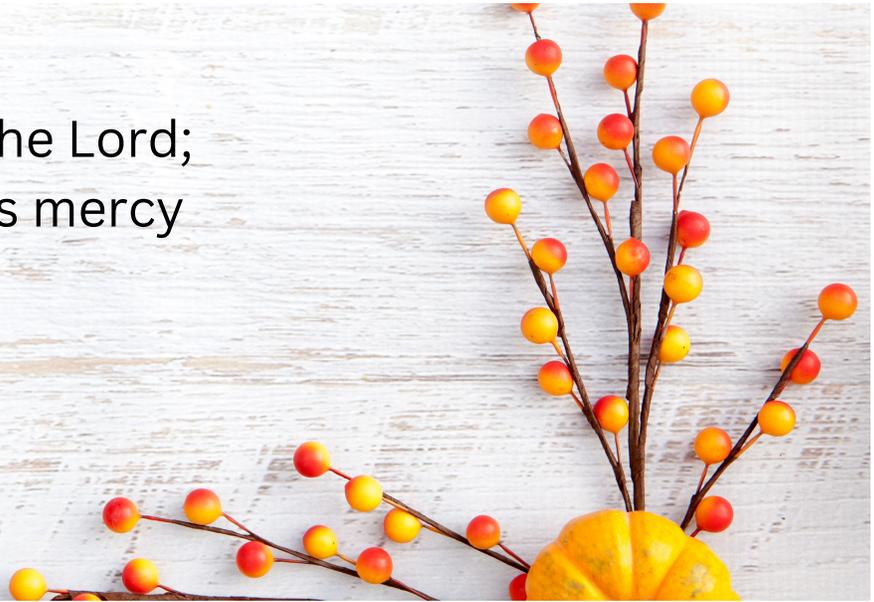


O give thanks unto the Lord;
for he is good: for his mercy
endureth for ever.

Psalm 136:1



[NMD Website](#)

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I Will Offer Up My Life

I will offer up my life
In spirit and truth
Pouring out the oil of love
As my worship to You
In surrender I must give
My every part
Lord, receive the sacrifice
Of a broken heart

Jesus what can I give
What can I bring
To so faithful a friend
To so loving a King?
Savior what can be said
What can be sung
As a praise of Your name
For the things
You have done?
Oh my words could not tell,
Not even in part
Of the debt of love
That is owed by this
Thankful heart

You deserve my every
breath
For You've paid
the great cost
Giving up Your life to
death
Even death on a cross
You took all my shame
away
There defeated my sin
Opened up the gates
of heaven
And have beckoned me in

What is the Meaning of Gratitude?

by Dr. T. A. Noble for Holiness Today

Joseph Addison was a famous essayist and poet in the age of Queen Anne. He was active while John and Charles Wesley were young. Among his writings is a poem about gratitude.

*When all Thy mercies, O my God,
My rising soul surveys,
Transported with the view, I'm lost
In wonder, love and praise.*

*O how shall words with equal warmth
The gratitude declare,
That dwells within my ravished heart?
But thou canst read it there.*

Gratitude, it's an interesting word. The meaning of the word is shaped by the context in which you use it, but you cannot ignore the history of the word. And in this case this is one of those many English words that comes from Latin. It comes from the Latin word *gratia*, g-r-a-t-i-a, which means grace. So you could define gratitude as an attitude of grace.

But there's a puzzle there, isn't there? Isn't grace what God shows to us? We sometimes define grace as God's unmerited favor. But it helps, I think, to realize that grace is quite simply, generosity; God's giving of Himself to us. Grace is not a thing, a force that irresistibly saves us. The very idea of irresistible grace is self-contradictory. It is some human and impersonal idea of what grace is. Grace is God's free generosity, giving Himself to us.

Well then, here's the puzzle. Is gratitude grace? Yes, I think so. You could call it, responding grace. The Wesleyan Theologian Brandy Maddox famously spoke of Wesley's view of grace as, responsible grace; the grace of God which evokes our response. So you could call gratitude responding grace; our free response, our giving ourselves to God. Grace is free, personal, generosity, giving ourselves to others, and gratitude is free, spontaneous response.



T. A. Noble is research professor of Theology at Nazarene Theological Seminary, Kansas City and senior research fellow in Theology at Nazarene Theological College, Manchester.

Another word for gratitude is, thanksgiving; so courtesy, good manners, thinking about others, remembering to express thanks for all the grace and generosity shown to us.

But how does that apply in prayer? It is easy for us, is it not, for our prayers just to become shopping lists. Lord bless so-and-so. Lord can you help with this, can you guide that, can you bless this one? And that is all good, of course. We are to bring to God our petitions for ourselves and our intercessions for others. But how easy it is to slip into prayer that is merely only asking, asking, asking, and to skip thanking God for all His gifts and generosity. In one verse of Addison's hymn he writes,

*Ten thousand thousand precious gifts
My daily thanks employ;
Nor is the least a cheerful heart
That tastes those gifts with joy.*

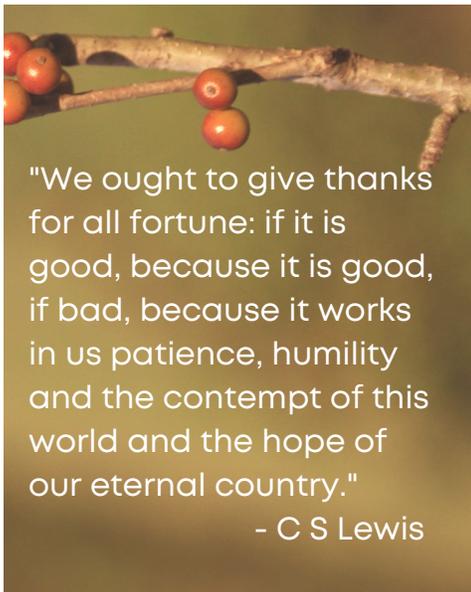
Gratitude – thanksgiving.

John Wesley, as you know, loved the Book of Common Prayer, and that includes a general thanksgiving. It's a prayer of gratitude for all God's gifts, which Wesley must have used often throughout his life. It goes like this:

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give You humble thanks for all Your goodness and loving kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless You for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life, but above all, for Your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And we pray, give us such an awareness of Your mercies that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth Your praise not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving ourselves to Your service and by walking before You in holiness and righteousness all our days. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with You and the Holy Spirit be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Gratitude, an attitude of grace.

You can listen to this article by Dr. Noble [here](#)



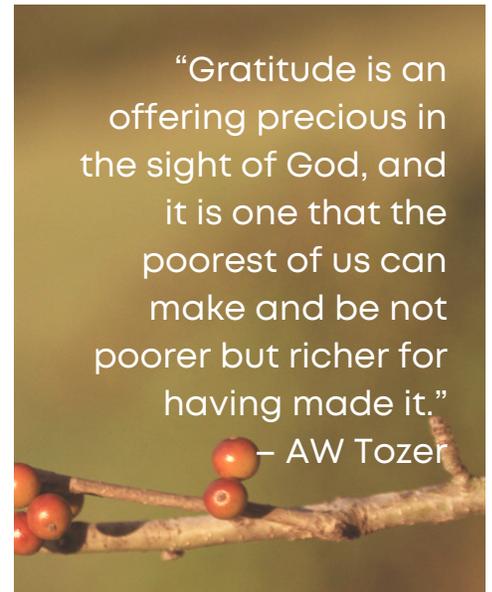
"We ought to give thanks for all fortune: if it is good, because it is good, if bad, because it works in us patience, humility and the contempt of this world and the hope of our eternal country."

- C S Lewis

"God has promised to supply all our needs. What we don't have now, we don't need now." - Elisabeth Elliot

"We would worry less if we praised more. Thanksgiving is the enemy of discontent and dissatisfaction."

- Harry Ironside

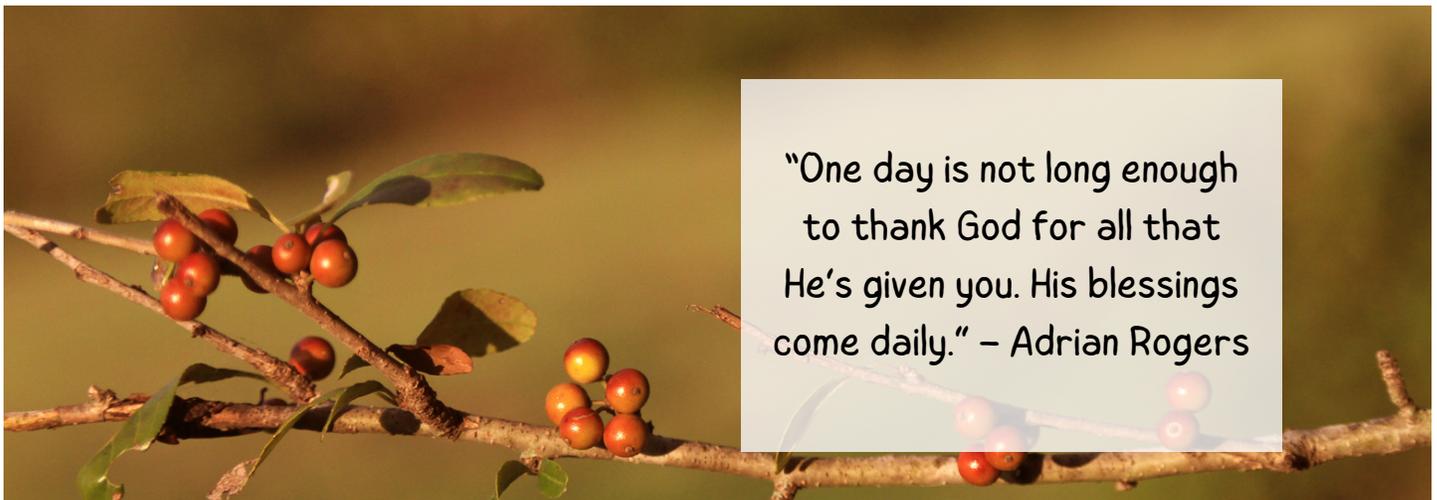


"Gratitude is an offering precious in the sight of God, and it is one that the poorest of us can make and be not poorer but richer for having made it."

- AW Tozer



"Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." - Ephesians 5:20



"One day is not long enough to thank God for all that He's given you. His blessings come daily." - Adrian Rogers



Offering of Thanks

The Church of the Nazarene's Thanksgiving Offering for the World Evangelism Fund has been a denominational tradition for more than 90 years. Your gifts create and sustain ministries and make it possible to bring Christ's transformational message of hope and salvation to the world through the Church of the Nazarene. The World Evangelism Fund not only provides ministries on the ground with the monies they need, but the money is used to ensure that legal, federal, and support needs are met so that ministries are as safe as possible and can be sustained for years to come.



Materials are available for order or download for the Offering of Thanks by clicking [here](#) and then scrolling through the website. Resources are available in English, French, Korean, Portuguese, and Spanish.

"Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name. Make known His deeds among the peoples; make them remember that His name is exalted." Praise the LORD in song, for He has done glorious things; let this be known throughout the earth." Isaiah 12:4-5



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For More Information:
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(815) 928-5726
jsstark@olivet.edu



U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

2022

Oct. 28-30 - Homecoming - ONU

Nov. 10-12 - Church Planter Assessment Weekend

Dec. 3 - Pastor and Family Christmas Gathering - Park Place Hotel - Traverse City

2023

Feb 10-12 Winter Whiteout - Center Lake Bible Camp, Tustin, MI

April 14-15 - District Assembly - Clare COTN including NMI, NYI, NDI, conventions on Friday the 14th

June 9-16 - General Assembly - Indianapolis, Indiana

July 5-9 - Nazarene Youth Conference (NYC) Tampa Bay, Florida

July 31-Aug 4 - Children's Camp, Manton Christian Camp

Aug 4-6 - Family Camp Weekend, Manton Christian Camp

October 14-15 - Women's Retreat

General Assembly & Conventions
June 9-16,
2023
Indianapolis

General Assembly



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THE 30TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY & CONVENTIONS

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OVER FLOW
Tampa Bay
July 5-9, 2023



I am
the way
the truth
and the
life.

John 14:6



Discipleship is a journey of grace with Jesus as our guide and companion.

Christian discipleship helps believers grow in the Lord Jesus Christ as they are equipped by His Holy Spirit who resides within them, to overcome the pressures and trials of this present life and become more and more Christlike.

Resources

Video