

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN F E L L O W S H I P

Being Thankful For...?

What were you thankful for this Thanksgiving?

Anything else we should be thankful for?

Ephesians 5:20, "And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

- *What might that include?*

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How about things we don't have yet?

- *A diploma*
- *A job*
- *A mate*
- *A house*
- *..... ?*

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How about heaven?

- *Anyone here been there yet?*
- *Are you thankful for it?*

Why?

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Do you think any Hebrews were actively, personally thankful for Messiah before the birth of Jesus?

*I think **Simeon** was... and maybe **Anna***

Why do you think Simeon was thankful for Him?

*I think because **God has promised Him, and Simeon believed God.***

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Has God made any promises to you, you don't have yet?

- *Personal or corporate*

Are you thankful for them?

Do you thank Him for them?

*The things we **GIVE** thanks for, we value.*

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March 2, 1993 God made a life altering promise to me in the morning

That night He stunned me by dramatically repeating it

It hasn't happened yet.

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In May 1990 He rocked me with an even more shattering promise

It hasn't happened yet, either.

But I actively return to them and thank Him for them regularly

Why? Because **I believe Him** and there is no faith alternative

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Revell and I celebrated our 40th Wedding Anniversary last week

I want to be married 50 years, if Jesus doesn't come back first

And I thank Him and her for it regularly

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What happens in us to something we don't **actively Give Thanks** for?

Its value to us fades.

Last week we expressed **thanks to each other, for each other**

I am confident **our value of each other has been built up** for the future

It empowers us to **OWN God's future for us** that hasn't arrived yet

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Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the **substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**" (with the human eye, yet)

Hebrews 2-11 & 17-35 testify to what has already happened.

Vs. 12-16 & 36-40 honor those who **owned God's promises**, even though they hadn't laid hold of them in this life.

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We live in a **"Give it to me now, and don't make me wait"** world.

And we want it **on Our Terms!**

Amazon will put it on your doorstep tomorrow

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Romans 12:2, "And **do not** be conformed to this world, but **be transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

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What should we do?

- **Listen to/for God**, in His Word and in prayer, worship and meditation by The Holy Spirit
- **Know what He says and believe Him**, expecting Him to do everything He has promised – to you and to all of us.
- **Regularly revisit what He has said to you** – personally & corporately
- **Thank Him directly and often**, and do not let earthly circumstances to deter you
- **Encourage others to do the same** – let them catch it from you
- **Never doubt Him** – even when you don't see or understand how (He'll let you know what He wants you to, when He wants you to)

Let's thank Him