

Consequences of Ingratitude: Ingratitude hinders spiritual growth and understanding.

2 Peter 1:2-9 (NKJV)

Hebrews 12:15 (NASB) "See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many become defiled."

Quote: "Nothing turns us into bitter, selfish, dissatisfied people more quickly than an ungrateful heart." – Nancy Leigh DeMoss, *Choosing Gratitude*

10. Gratitude Invites God's Blessings; Ingratitude Blocks God's Favor

Benefits of Gratitude: Gratitude attracts God's favor and blessings in our lives.

Psalm 67:5-7 (NLT) "May the nations praise you, O God. Yes, may all the nations praise you. Then the earth will yield its harvests, and God, our God, will richly bless us."

James 1:17 (NKJV) "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning."

Quote: "When we choose thankfulness, we open the windows of heaven for God's blessings to flow." – Billy Graham, *Hope for Each Day*

Consequences of Ingratitude: Ingratitude hinders God's blessings and favor.

Psalm 106:13-14 "They soon forgot His works; they did not wait for His counsel, but lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tested God in the desert."

Hosea 4:7 "The more they increased, the more they sinned against Me; I will change their glory into shame."

(Prosperity without gratitude leads to rebellion and shame.)

Luke 17:17-18 (NASB) "Then Jesus responded and said, 'Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine—where are they? Was no one found who returned to give glory to God, except this foreigner?'"



The Power of Gratitude – Part 3

Saturday and Sunday, November 23-24, 2024

James the brother of Jesus wrote:

James 1:2 (NKJV) My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,

James 1:3 (NKJV) knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

James 1:4 (NKJV) But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Benefits of Gratitude

1: Gratitude Brings Us Closer to God

James 4:8 (NKJV) Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

When we express gratitude, we align our hearts with God's character, and it nurtures a deeper relationship with Him.

2: Gratitude Shifts Our Focus to What Matters Most

Colossians 3:2 (NKJV) Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

3: Gratitude Fuels Joy and Strengthens Faith

Nehemiah 8:10 (NKJV) Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

4: Gratitude Encourages Generosity and Compassion

Matthew 10:8 (NKJV) Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NKJV) So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

When we give expression to gratitude, we reflect God's generous heart, and doing so, we cultivate a cycle of blessing. Gratitude compels us to look beyond ourselves.

5: Gratitude Keeps Us Humble and Dependent on God

James 4:10 (NKJV) Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

John 15:5 (NKJV) "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Contrast of Gratitude and Ingratitude.

Matthew 12:33 (NKJV) "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit.

Matthew 12:34 (NKJV) Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things?

For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

Matthew 12:35 (NKJV) A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.

Matthew 12:36 (NKJV) But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.

Matthew 12:37 (NKJV) For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

6. Gratitude Brings Peace; Ingratitude Causes Restlessness

Benefits of Gratitude: Gratitude help peace grow in our hearts by helping us focus on God's goodness.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV) "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Colossians 3:15 (NLT) "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful."

Consequences of Ingratitude: Ingratitude breeds restlessness and dissatisfaction.

Romans 1:21 (NLT) "Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused."

Isaiah 57:20-21 (NASB) "But the wicked are like the tossing sea, for it cannot be quiet, and its waters toss up refuse and mud. 'There is no peace,' says my God, 'for the wicked.'"

7. Gratitude Leads to Stronger Relationships; Ingratitude Leads to Broken Bonds

Benefits of Gratitude: Gratitude strengthens relationships by promoting love and appreciation.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NLT) "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."

Ephesians 4:32 (NLT) "Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you."

Quote: "Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it." – William Arthur Ward, *Thoughts of a Christian Optimist*

Consequences of Ingratitude: Ingratitude fosters resentment and relational decay.

Proverbs 17:13 (NASB) "One who returns evil for good, evil will not depart from his house."

2 Timothy 3:2-3 (NKJV) "For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boast-ers, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good."

Quote: "A lack of gratitude is the first step towards selfishness." – Warren Wiersbe,

8. Gratitude Leads to Contentment; Ingratitude Breeds Discontentment

Benefits of Gratitude: Gratitude helps us find satisfaction in what God has given us.

1 Timothy 6:6 (NKJV) "Now godliness with contentment is great gain."

Hebrews 13:5 (NLT) "Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'"

Consequences of Ingratitude: Ingratitude drives a longing for more, leading to unhappiness.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 (NLT) "Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness!"

James 4:2-3 (NASB) "You lust and do not have, so you commit murder. And you are envious and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask."

James 4:3 (NASB95) You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

Quote: "It is not the happy people who are thankful. It is the thankful people who are happy." – Unknown Christian Proverb

9. Gratitude Promotes Spiritual Growth; Ingratitude Stunts Spiritual Growth

Psalms 100:4 (NLT) "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!"

Colossians 2:6-7 (NLT) "And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness."