

Grateful in the Lord

Acts 5:40-42

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“...and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.”

Christian Quotes on Being Thankful

- **“No matter what our circumstances, we can find a reason to be thankful.” –Dr. David Jeremiah**
- **“God has promised to supply all our needs. What we don’t have now, we don’t need now.” –Elizabeth Elliot**
- **“It is only with gratitude that life becomes rich!” –Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

Tony Evans

“God says to give thanks in everything. That doesn’t mean you need to give thanks FOR everything. You don’t need to give thanks FOR that bad day. Or FOR that bad relationship. Or being passed over at work. Financial hardship. Whatever it is – you are not to give thanks FOR the difficulties, but rather IN the difficulties... Giving thanks IN everything shows a heart of faith that God is bigger than the difficulties and that He can use them, if you approach Him with the right heart and spirit, for your good and His glory.”

The Predisposition toward Thankfulness

- **“And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams”
Acts 2:17**
- **The Spirit brings a new orientation to life resulting in insight, power, and gratitude.**

The Apostles' Gratitude

- Grateful Rejoicing
- Faithful Obedience
- Hopeful Optimism

1. Grateful Rejoicing

- **“The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.” (Acts 5:41)**
- **“When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly” (1 Peter 2:23).**

2. Faithful Obedience

- **“And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus” (Acts 5:42).**
- **They had been entrusted with the mission and message of Christ.**
- **What is the Gospel?**

The Bridge Presentation

Humanity:

- Separated from God by sin
- In need of forgiveness and grace
- In need of purpose and life



The Gap

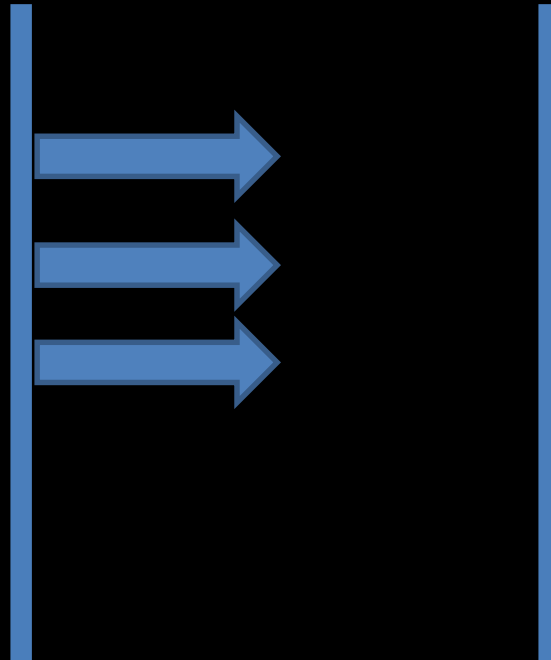
God:

- Holy and righteous
- Must judge sin
- Loves humanity

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God:

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Humanity tries to span the gap through good works, philosophy, religion

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Admit
Believe
Confess

God:

- Holy and righteous
- Must judge sin
- Loves humanity
- Sent Christ to redeem people

The Gospel According to Peter

Acts 2 and 10

- **God is not a respecter of persons. He knows you and cares about you.**
- **Jesus was declared to be Savior and Lord, Christ, by His pure and compassionate life, and His resurrection from the dead.**
- **Repent and Believe**
- **It is a call to move toward Jesus. It appeals to people who feel powerless and forgotten.**

The Gospel According to Paul

Acts 13 & 17:

- **God is the all-knowing Creator and desires that mankind would seek Him.**
- **He now commands that all people repent of their sin and turn to Christ. Christ is the judge of all the world, and His authority was demonstrated by God raising Him from the dead.**
- **It was a call to realize how far we have fallen from God's original plan, and to repent and believe in Christ. It is useful to people who feel smug and self-confident.**

The Gospel According to Jesus

- Jesus called people to believe in Him
- “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12).
- “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die” (John 11:25-26).

The Essentials of the Gospel

- **The Lordship of Christ**
- **The condition of people – made and loved by God yet sinful.**
- **The story of Jesus: His life, His death, burial, and resurrection.**
- **The offer of forgiveness and new life in Christ.**
- **The call to repentance and faith in Christ Jesus.**

3. Hopeful Optimism

- **“Now those who say such things show that they are seeking a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them” (Hebrews 11:14-16).**

3. Hopeful Optimism

- **“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers” (Romans 8:28-29).**