

# How Can I Say Thanks?

## Aspects of Authentic Worship and Praise

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."  
—I Thessalonians 5:16-18

**"Indescribable Gift"** *The Thanksgiving Promise...* II Corinthians 9

*"When it comes to life, the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or take them with gratitude."*  
—G. K. Chesterton

### I. "STIRRED TO ACTION" (II Corinthians 9:1-3)

- A. Commendation of spiritual enthusiasm (vs. 1, 2)
- B. Bringing principle to practice (v. 3)

### II. "AS A GENEROUS GIFT" (9:4, 5)

- A. Testing the roots of stewardship confidence (v.4)
- B. The response of grace gratitude (v. 5)

### III. "A CHEERFUL GIVER" (9:6, 7)

- A. The formula for spiritual harvest (v. 6)
- B. The dynamics of cheerful choice (v. 7)

*"He that gives all, though but little, gives much because God looks not to the quantity of the gift but to the quality of the giver."* —Francis Quarles

### IV. "ALL GRACE ABOUND" (9:8, 9)

- A. The God of grace abundance (v. 8)
- B. Divine righteousness and generosity (v. 9) (note Psalm 112)

### V. "ENLARGE THE HARVEST" (9:10, 11)

- A. Temporal and spiritual supply from God (v. 10)
- B. Ultimate thanksgiving and the glory of God (v. 11)

### VI. "EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS" (9:12)

- A. Expressions of love to God's people.
- B. Expressions of gratitude to God.

### VII. "THANKS BE TO GOD!" (9:13-15)

- A. The testimony of obedience and praise (v. 13)
- B. The spiritual fellowship in God's grace (vs. 14, 15)



"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."  
—Hebrews 13:15, 16

### **FOR THOUGHT, DISCUSSION, and APPLICATION...**

1. Someone wrote, *"You can give without loving, but you can't love without giving."* In this passage, the primary emphasis is on grace-giving as an evidence of praise to God. Verse 11 states that "generosity will result in thanksgiving". What do you think this means as far as Christians and their money?
2. Discuss the nature of true worship and its relationship to *thanksgiving* and *praise*. Do you think that it's possible to worship without appreciation to God?
3. We see in Scripture that there are several ways to worship God. John 4:24 states, "God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." How does this apply to thanksgiving? To music? To giving?
4. It is sometimes thought that true worship must proceed from, or be accompanied by deep emotion. What part do feelings play in sincere worship and gratitude to God? And are there ways of stimulating worship?
5. Hebrews 13:15 and 16 embraces thanksgiving in *obedience, testimony, and service*. Are all of these necessary components?
6. Discuss the meanings of the phrase "undescribable gift".