

<u> Missionary Evangelism to Corrections</u>

Sharing the gospel & Christ's love with those in corrections since 1982 "I was in prison and you came to me" Matt.25:36cESV

Thanksgiving

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance uses two words to explain what the word Thanksgiving means in the Bible. Togarmah derived from <u>yadah</u>; properly, an extension of the hand, i.e. (by implication) avowal, or (usually) adoration; specifically, a choir of worshippers -- confession, (sacrifice of) praise, thanks(-giving, offering).

The following are thoughts from the more lengthy and complex definitions from Bible Hub website:

Extending the hand, vowing, adoring

Give thanks, laud or Praise

Confessing and forsaking transgression,

- Worship Psalm 28:7 with my song I will praise Him. Several verses say I will praise thee/You!
- To Place
- To throw or cast away the bad and cast your mind and heart on God and the good

To turn again to thee/You

- To Thank to give Thanks
- To Praise I will give Praise
- To glorify or give glory to

When looking at extending the hand, it strikes me that when we are giving thanks, we are actually extending something real and substantial. Vowing, adoring adds depth and substance to this. When asking children what they are thankful for, one who has animals will invariably say, my dog or my cat. This is sweet and cute. I did not realize the depth of this until I owned a dog which I loved and he passed away. Then grieving that and loving another helped me realize the profound meaning in that simple statement. The dog that we have that is a handful can sometimes evoke deeper feelings of harshness, but when he is good, there is more love and appreciation.

Thanks- Compare obligatory thanks such as a child receiving a gift he does not want, to deeper true thanks that would come if he could recognize the love in the heart of the giver who purchased or made the gift for him (or her).

Synonyms for laud are to acclaim, give accolade, applause, bay(s), credit, distinction, glory, homage;

We are a people who are called to Praise God. Words that are similar help, as long as we do not just list

Oct.-Nov. 2022 MEC Newsletter MEC Spotlight

We were thankful for the many who came to see Sabina and to hear the testimonies and to fellowship with us on November 13.

If you were not able to come you can watch the movie by registering with Voice of the Martyrs or find it on your steaming service. It is very inspirational and worth the watch!

With our Christ Jesus being Jewish, Saul's family background being Jewish, and Nadine's being German, this story moves me in a very special way. Forgiveness is at the heart of the gospel. Sometimes it may seem easier to forgive watching something that took place awhile ago, than it is to forgive things that happen to us in our current time.

It has been suggested by some of the jail staff, that we may be able to bring it in in some places and show it to the inmates. Please pray about this!

We hope to have the testimonies by

Jean Strub, volunteer and



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Spotlight:.....page 1 & 2

Bounsa Moua and vanHoly Var and which were shared at the November 13th event on the face book or website soon. vanHoly was a Buddhist Monk and the two of them were gang rivals. Coming to Christ brought them out of violence and to peace. They are great friends and work together at MN Adult and Teen Challenge.

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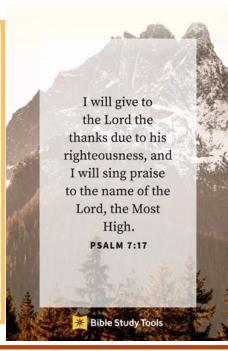
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them, but take them into our hearts and do them - "bless, " "exalt, " "extol, " "glorify, " "magnify, " "thank, " and "confess." To praise God is to call attention to his glory. (Bakers Bible Dictionary).

Confession includes both confessing our sin's, mistakes, missing the mark and "junk" so that we can receive forgiveness, and a new start. It also includes confessing the truth. The world will tell us the good life is cars, money, relationships where we are held up above others and other things that will not meet our real needs. The true good life is the abundant life Jesus promises in John 10:10

Continuing down the list above and reflecting on each one adds depth to our understanding of Giving Thanks1

There is nothing like God's Word to directly affect our hearts. Pray each of the scriptures below and your Thanksgiving will be a gift to you, those around you and a gift to God.



Psalm 95:1-5 (NKJV) Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. For the LORD is the great God, and the great King above all gods. In His hand are the deep places of the earth' the heights of the hills are His also. The sea is His, for He made it; and His hands formed the dry land.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. PSALM 100:4 **Psalm 100**

Make a Joyful Noise

(<u>Psalm 66:1–20</u> is similar with more detail

A Psalm of thanksgiving.

1Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

2Serve the LORD with gladness; come into His presence with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is He who made us, and we are His;

we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

<u>4</u>Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and bless His name.

5 For the LORD is good, and His loving devotion endures forever;

Bible Study Tools

Psalm 103:1-4 Praise the LORD, my

soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name. Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all His benefits — who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion. **Psalm 107:1-3 (ESV)** Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom He has redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

 Psalm 118 The LORD Is on My Side 1Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His loving devotion endures forever. 2Let Israel say, "His loving devotion endures forever." 	and He answered and set me free. <u>6</u> The LORD is on my side; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? <u>7</u> The LORD is on my side; He is my helper. Therefore, I will look in triumph on those who hate
 3Let the house of Aaron say, "His loving devotion endures forever." 4Let those who fear the LORD say, "His loving devotion endures forever." 5In my distress I called to the LORD, 	 me. 8 It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man. 9 It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes

Psalm 119:1-8

Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the LORD. Blessed are those who keep His statutes and seek Him with all their heart — they do no wrong but follow His ways.

You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed. Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees! Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your commands. I will praise you with an upright heart,

Isaiah 12:4-5 (NASB)

And on that day, you will say, "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.



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Continue praying each of the scriptures here for New testament Thanksgiving which will be a gift to you, those around you and to God.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 2:6-7 (NKJV) As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

1 Chronicles 16:34 (ESV) Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!

Hebrews 12:28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire."

Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Psalm 118:24 (ESV) This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Colossians 3:15-17 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

1 Chronicles 29:13 (NKJV) "Now therefore, our God, we thank You and praise Your glorious name."

Ephesians 5:18-20 (NASB) ... but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your hearts to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to our God and Father.

Hebrews 13:15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise — the fruit of lips that openly profess His name.

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