



Thankfulness
by Matt Newman

Colossians 3:15-17

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Three times in these verses, Paul reiterates the instruction of thankfulness. It's not an assumption, a guarantee, or even an expected instinct. It's an instruction. And if we are instructed to live thankful, we can be certain one of life's great temptations will be to have a sour-souled, fear-filled, complaining attitude. Have you known this person? Have you been this person?

Oftentimes, we can even have physical ailments as a result of choosing this ungodly perspective. It is remarkable what happens to our bodies when the angst of life consumes us and when we choose to see things through a worst-case lens. We often choose to not live thankful. The result being we never get to live in the reward of promised peace.

God used our (at the time) 6 month old to teach this to me. Our sweet little baby girl, Natalie, was not a great sleeper then. There were two nights in particular where she was waking up crying every hour. The first night I would again, and again, traipse down the stairs, huffing all the way. I was mad...I was tired. Have you ever tried to gently rock a baby to sleep while you were steaming inside? It's an oxymoron. It doesn't happen. Somehow babies get whatever you are feeling. They are wonderful barometers that way. It was a "woe is me" kind of night.

What's Happening?

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER:

Operation Christmas Child
Booth D, Worship Center Foyer
Return shoe boxes this weekend!

Spring Break Mission Trips

NWA, Kansas City, and Guatemala
Register by November 20
Training for all participants on December 2

Family Advent Devotionals
Packets available December 2
Worship Center Foyer

Christmas Eve Services
Tickets available December 2
Worship Center Foyer

For more information on any of the events above, email mosaic@fellowshipnwa.org

RESOURCES

Books

- [Growing Together in Gratitude](#)
- [Raising Grateful Kids in an Entitled World](#)

Articles

- [Replace Whining with Gratitude in Your Children](#)
- [Gratitude: The Seed of Contentment](#)

Fun Ideas

- [Fun Thanksgiving Printables](#)
- [Family Prayers of Thankfulness](#)

All day, I sensed the Holy Spirit whisper to me these words about living thankful. I was convicted. I didn't need a big life altering example to live out, I already had the perfect petri dish to see thankfulness growing in my heart.

The next night, the same thing happened. Theoretically it was my wife's turn to take the all night shift. But I sensed God giving me a do-over in the thankfulness department. When the crying sirens went off again, I sprang out of bed with a smile on my face, repeating the now 'imprinted on my mind' words: "with thankfulness in your hearts to God." I scooped up Natalie gracefully, rocking her to sleep with joy and kisses. Tears actually sprang to my eyes as I thought about the miracle it was to adopt her into our family. I considered all the years I dreamed of a baby girl needing to be soothed by me, and here I was now, living in an answered prayer. I think my thankfulness was oozing through my pores, because she was soon snuggled and safe as I rocked her to sleep. She was at peace, and so was I.

The season of Thanksgiving is about a lot of things. But most of all, it's a systems reset that all of this is "from, through, and for Jesus". And because of Him, we can live every day in a posture of thankfulness.

