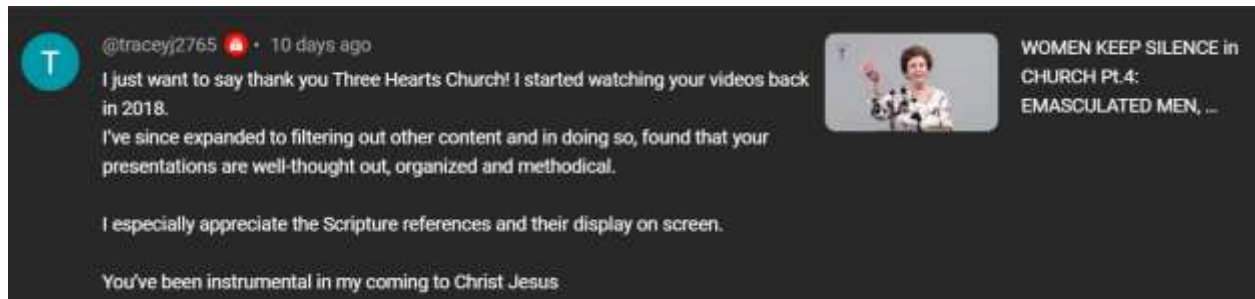


GIVE THANKS



Shout out to Traceyj2765 – She shared I just want to say thank you Three Hearts Church! I started watching your videos back in 2018. I've since expanded to filtering out other content and in doing so, found that your presentations are well-thought out, organized and methodical. I especially appreciate the Scripture references and their display on screen. You've been instrumental in my coming to Christ Jesus.

We give all glory to God. That's what it's all about, coming to Christ!

A few years ago, Ms. Rhonda shared something with me that I want to share with you all. She heard a message about thanking God often, even for a parking space. She said there was a lady who was trying to get healed and asked the Holy Spirit and God why He wasn't answering and He gave her a dream where the prayer requests were heavy on the scales and there was NO thanksgiving for Him. She started thanking Him and got healed!

I can bear witness with that. We are to show our gratitude to God for all He has done for us and not just be asking and asking all the time without acknowledging His work and answered prayers in our lives.

I want to share a Psalm with you that I learned with Kennedy when she was in kindergarten.

Psalm 100:1-5 - A Psalm of praise. Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before His presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD He *is* God: *it is* He *that* hath made us, and not we ourselves; *we are* His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with

thanksgiving, *and* into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, *and* bless His name. For the LORD *is* good; His mercy *is* everlasting; and His truth *endureth* to all generations.

I take God's Word to heart and we are to be doers of God's Word and not hearers only. **(James 1:22-25)** In our home, in our family time with God, we sing praise to Him first, then we pray over the reading of His Word and then we pray after we read His Word. In our prayers, we thank Him and praise Him before we ask anything. In my personal time with The Lord, I do the same things.

Make godly habits in your life. When you pray, stop and give Him thanks for something first and then praise Him and then go on with your prayer. I model this for you in every sermon. You will never run out of things to thank Him for. Some examples are: your life, He created you, for loving you, for Jesus and The Holy Spirit, His mercy and grace, your salvation, the gifts He gives, The Word of God, for your family, your health, your mind, your job, your home and on and on it goes.

Eph.5:20 – Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

The Bible tells us to give thanks always and we do this in Jesus' name. All that we do as Christians, we do in Jesus' name. Thank the Lord in all things. Do not thank Him for pain or for sickness, but continue to thank and praise Him while you are going through whatever you are going through. He will carry you through it. For example, someone diagnosed with cancer would not thank God for the cancer, but continue thanking Him for His mercy and grace, for strengthening you, for healing in Jesus' name. Speak in faith and keep thanking Him for all His goodness in your life while you keep praying to be healed and keep trusting in Him and waiting on Him.

At one point in my life when I was very sick with rheumatoid arthritis and nothing seemed to help, every time I would go grocery shopping I would thank God that I could even still walk the whole store to gather up the items that we needed. Once I put the water in the cart it was always so heavy pushing it around the

store. I would have so much pain in my hips. As I walked the store I would thank God that I could still do this for my family. I would thank Him that I could walk under my own steam and that I could put the groceries in the back of the car.

That was what I did a few years back, today I usually use the pick-up service at the store but many times when I am walking around in a store I will thank God that I can even do that. There were times in my life I had so much pain that I would cry and even wonder how I was going to make it out of the store. The other day I had to park very far away from the store and as I walked up to the store I was thanking God that I could do that. I will raise my hands to praise Him no matter where I am or who is looking.

When I find a good parking spot, I usually always thank The Lord even though it is not something I had prayed about. I consider it His favor. When I can navigate out into traffic easily or a hard intersection or something, I thank Him for His protection and favor. Our mindset should always be set on God and in thinking that He cares and is active in every part of our lives.

Hebrews 13:15 - By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to His name.

If you have trouble thanking God, then your heart is not right toward Him. Something is wrong with your Christian walk. You need a tender heart and to be filled with The Holy Spirit. I heard once that if God never does one more thing for us He has done enough in giving Christ for our salvation. That is a true statement. But I am so thankful that God continues to be merciful to us our whole lives and not just at the moment of salvation. I ask Him for so many things but I try to remember to thank Him also.

Luke 12:17-19 – And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: And they lifted up *their* voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw *them*, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on *his* face at his feet, giving

him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where *are* the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

This story has always stuck with me. I can just visualize this in my mind. Jesus healed 10 lepers and they all ran off so happy and relieved but only one came back and bothered to take the time to say thank You to The Lord. Jesus' response should be all we need to understand that He expects us to be thankful. He was amazed that only the Samaritan came back to say thank You. The Samaritan wasn't even a Jew, not one that had learned the ways of the Jews and yet he was the only one that came back to say thank You. Let's not take God for granted, but let's be mindful to thank Him and give Him His glory.

When The Lord answers my prayers, I try to remember to come back and say thank You to Him. I thank Him more than once. I usually thank Him several times and then when it crosses my mind I thank Him again. God never tires of hearing us tell Him - thank You.

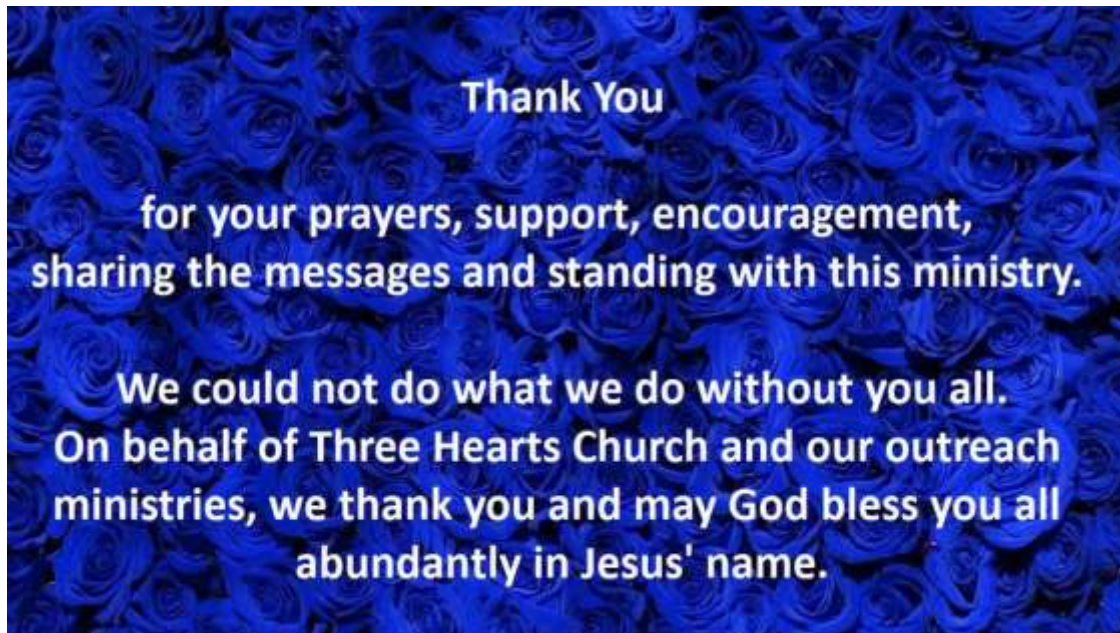
I have even said prayers like this – Dear Lord, I am sorry for all the times I have forgotten to come back and say Thank You. You are The One Who answers my prayers. I praise You. Please forgive me and I do thank You for all the answered prayers that I realize You answered as well as prayers You answered that I failed to realize. I thank You for them all in Jesus name.

CLOSING

Never ever do I pray without thanking God and praising Him. If I was in a heat of the moment situation and there was no time, then and only then, would I cry out to Him like Peter did – Lord help! But I have not had many times like that where I could not at least say thank You for something and praise Him – HE IS WORTHY!

Thanking God for your life, your salvation, for His mercy and grace to you, for answered prayer, all of this is part of your worship of God.

Did you know it is a sin not to thank Him and praise Him? If you claim to be a Christian you should be thanking and praising God every day. If you aren't doing these things, then it sounds like you are not truly saved and not filled with The Holy Spirit. You might not be thanking God or praising Him as a baby Christian but you should not continue that behavior especially after hearing this sermon.



Thank You! – for your prayers, support, encouragement, sharing the messages and standing with this ministry. We could not do what we do without you all. On behalf of Three Hearts Church and our outreach ministries, we thank you and may God bless you all abundantly in Jesus' name.

PRAYER