

Giving Thanks

I love *Thanksgiving Day*... for a lot of reasons. We all love the wonderful meals - turkey, dressing, ham, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie and who knows how many side trimmings and other desserts. But I also love the fact that most people also remember it is a time to give thanks to God for all of his blessed provisions He showers down upon us.

Most people I know do, indeed remember the spiritual aspect of Thanksgiving Day (even as we watched the Cowboys loose this year! Ugh!) Amidst all the hustle and bustle of food and football, we find time to remember to give thanks to, "...the God of all grace who called you to His eternal glory in Christ..." Grace itself is a precious gift, given by God by which He, "...will perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish" us, 1 Peter 5:10.

What does concern me is that even God's own people often forget that **"thanksgiving" is not a day... it is a lifestyle**, day in and day out, all year long. I wonder if just perhaps... we might have been better served by calling this particular Thursday, "Giving of Thanks" day... and then remember, teach, remind, and practice the *giving of thanks as a lifestyle rather than one specific 24 hour holiday!*

Of vital importance is that we are in the process of giving thanks and not merely in the process of celebrating a day to think about giving thanks. Get it? Giving thanks is an active, year long lifestyle, not merely a celebration of harvest time. Giving thanks recognizes who is the Giver and who is the receiver. Giving thanks is a life long process of the heart, not merely a day long celebration of the harvest.

As one author wrote, ***"Thanksgiving is not a day, it is the lifestyle of happy people."***

Ray Wallace