

A New Testament Theology of Thanks

Compiled by Julian Freeman

Modelled by Jesus

^{ESV} **Matthew 11:25** At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children;

^{ESV} **Matthew 15:36** he took the seven loaves and the fish, and having given thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.

^{ESV} **Mark 8:6** And he directed the crowd to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves, and having given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and they set them before the crowd.

^{ESV} **John 6:11** Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. ... ²³ Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks.

^{ESV} **John 11:41** So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me.

^{ESV} **Matthew 26:27** And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you,

^{ESV} **Mark 14:23** And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it.

^{ESV} **Luke 22:17** And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. ... ¹⁹ And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

^{ESV} **1 Corinthians 11:24** and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Modelled by Those Who Approach Jesus

^{ESV} **Luke 2:38** And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

^{ESV} **Luke 17:14** When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan.

Desired by Jesus

ESV Luke 17:17 Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine?" ¹⁸ Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁸ Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

Modelled by the Apostles

ESV Acts 27:35 And when he had said these things, he took bread, and giving thanks to God in the presence of all he broke it and began to eat.

ESV Acts 28:15 And the brothers there, when they heard about us, came as far as the Forum of Appius and Three Taverns to meet us. On seeing them, Paul thanked God and took courage.

ESV Romans 1:8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.

ESV Romans 6:17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed,

ESV Romans 7:25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

ESV Romans 16:4 who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well.

ESV 1 Corinthians 1:4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus,

ESV 1 Corinthians 1:14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,

ESV 1 Corinthians 14:18 I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you.

ESV 1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

ESV 2 Corinthians 2:14 But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.

ESV 2 Corinthians 8:16 But thanks be to God, who put into the heart of Titus the same earnest care I have for you.

ESV 2 Corinthians 9:12 For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.

ESV 2 Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

^{ESV} **Ephesians 1:16** I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,

^{ESV} **Philippians 1:3** I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,

^{ESV} **Colossians 1:3** We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you,

^{ESV} **1 Thessalonians 1:2** We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers,

^{ESV} **1 Thessalonians 2:13** And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

^{ESV} **1 Thessalonians 3:9** For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God,

^{ESV} **2 Thessalonians 1:3** We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.

^{ESV} **2 Thessalonians 2:13** But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.

^{ESV} **1 Timothy 1:12** I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent.

^{ESV} **2 Timothy 1:3** I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day.

^{ESV} **Philemon 1:4** I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers,

Commanded by the Apostles

^{ESV} **2 Corinthians 1:11** You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

^{ESV} **2 Corinthians 4:15** For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

^{ESV} **2 Corinthians 9:11** You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

^{ESV} **Ephesians 5:4** Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

^{ESV} **Ephesians 5:18** And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

^{ESV} **Philippians 4:6** do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

^{ESV} **Colossians 1:12** giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

^{ESV} **Colossians 2:6** Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

^{ESV} **Colossians 3:15** And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

^{ESV} **Colossians 3:16** 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.

^{ESV} **Colossians 3:17** 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.

^{ESV} **Colossians 4:2** Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

^{ESV} **1 Thessalonians 5:18** give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

^{ESV} **1 Timothy 2:1** First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,

The Worldview of the Unthankful

^{ESV} **Romans 1** ²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honour him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

The Worldview of the Thankful

^{ESV} **Romans 14:6** The one who observes the day, observes it in honour of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honour of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honour of the Lord and gives thanks to God.

^{ESV} **1 Corinthians 10:30** If I partake with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that for which I give thanks?

^{ESV} **1 Timothy 4:1** Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, ² through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are

seared, who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. ⁴ For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵ for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

Thanks in Corporate Worship

^{ESV} **1 Corinthians 14:16** Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say "Amen" to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying?

^{ESV} **1 Corinthians 14:17** For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up.

Thanks in the Presence of God

^{ESV} **Revelation 4:9** And whenever the living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever.

^{ESV} **Revelation 7:12** saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

^{ESV} **Revelation 11:17** saying, "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign.