

Ways We Thank God

by Wayne Goff

Thanksgiving Day arrives on Thursday, November 26, 2015 — a *national day* of Thanksgiving. I wonder if our nation remembers the One Whom they should thank? George Washington was the first president to proclaim a day of thanksgiving (October 3, 1789). Abraham Lincoln set aside the last Thursday of November as a national day of Thanksgiving. His proclamation was sent out on October 3, 1864, and therein he warned Americans not to be “insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God.”

There are many ways by which we can give thanks to God. Prayer often comes to mind, and we may bow our heads, and thank our God for every material and spiritual blessing. *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning”* (James 1:17). Meditate on that thought for a moment! But let me suggest a few other practical acts of thanksgiving:

1. **Giving on the First Day of the Week**, 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9, especially verses 11-12.
2. **Reading God’s Word and following it**, 1 John 2:3-6.
3. **Caring, as individuals, for those less fortunate**, James 1:27.
4. **Treating others just as you would have them treat you**, Matthew 7:12.
5. **Praying for your enemies**, Luke 23:34; Acts 7:60.
6. **Praying for government leaders so that we might have peace**, 1 Timothy 2:1-4.
7. **Supporting the local church — the visible expression of the church built by Jesus Christ**, Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:42-47.

Every human being should be eternally grateful for life, breath and all things! There is One Whom we should love and adore for all the blessings of life. We are different from all other created things (Genesis 1:27) in that we have the capacity to look up above, reflect upon our lives, and give sincere thanks to the One from Whom all blessings flow.

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