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# **Hannah: An Attitude of Gratitude**

**# 734-A**

**Series: God's Living Legends (Part 1)**

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# An Attitude of Gratitude

Should a Christian celebrate Thanksgiving? While you are thinking about that one, add this question: if so, how often? Once a year? Or should every day be thanksgiving to the believer? While we are at it, add one more question. What is it that keeps us as Christians from being more thankful? The answers, I believe, surface clearly from the lives of two of God's Living Legends. One life is that of a woman who lived some 1,100 years before Christ. The other is the life of a man who lived when Jesus walked this earth and who met the Master face to face. The woman's name is Hannah. The man's name we do not even know. But they both had one thing in common; they both received mercy at the hand of God, and both returned to say thanks. The title of this lesson is, "Hannah: An Attitude of Gratitude".

As we left Hannah in the last lesson, God had miraculously answered her prayer, and she had faithfully honored her vow. Her prayer was for a son because God had shut up her womb while allowing her husband's other wife, Peninnah, to have her own basketball team and a full basket of future cheerleaders as well. Peninnah's house looked like the baby boom in full bloom, while Hannah's nursery quietly awaited her first bundle of joy. Peninnah you recall was not a good sport about it either. She would, no doubt, hang her diapers out to dry where Hannah could not help but see them. She was the type who would have delighted in waking Hannah in the middle of the night to borrow a pan to boil milk for her darling new baby boy. When they all traveled as a family to Shiloh for the yearly sacrifice, Peninnah's express goal was to make Hannah miserable. She succeeded to the point that Hannah simply wept and wept and couldn't even eat because her heart was so burdened over her barrenness.

But one year, you recall, Hannah went into the temple and poured her heart out to God. By withholding that which she wanted the most, God had created a need, and her desire to have a child turned to dependence. Her dependence turned to desperation. Her desperation turned to a decision. Her decision

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was to make a vow to God that if He would give her a son, she would give him back to Him. There were no strings attached. There was no joint ownership. There was no escape clause. The lad would belong to God as long as he lived. God honored her prayer and gave her a son. His name was Samuel. As our last lesson concluded, Hannah took little Samuel to Eli the priest, and with these beautiful words, she gave up the son for whom she had longed and prayed.

For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him:

Therefore also I have given him back to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there.  
(I Samuel 1:27,28)

Hannah's worship took the form of a chorus of praise. Let's look at it together in the next verse,

And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the LORD, mine horn is exalted in the LORD: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation.

There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.

Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

The bows of the mighty men are broken, and they that stumbled are girded with strength.

They that were full have hired out themselves for bread; and they that were hungry ceased: so that the barren hath born seven; and she that hath many children is waxed feeble.

The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up.

The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up.

He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and he hath set the world upon them.

He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.

The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall

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judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.

And Elkanah went to Ramah to his house. And the child did minister unto the LORD before Eli the priest.

(I Samuel 2:1-11)

So Hannah had a celebration of praise. Now ask yourself two questions: “What was the occasion of her celebration?” and “What was she praising the Lord for?” The occasion was the giving up, once and for all, the son for whom she had so prayed. She had carried him, nursed him and loved him. Now she must tell him good-bye. She would see him once a year for the rest of her life. It was hardly a cause for celebration. *Ah, but Hannah had God’s perspective.* Hannah’s excitement was not based upon on what God had done for her. *Her excitement was based upon what God had done to glorify His name.* To take it even further, the basis of her praise was thanksgiving, not only for what God had done, but also for who God is. We do not always know what God has done. Often we do not know why He had done what He has done. *But we always know who He is.* We can rest assured that He does what He does to reveal who He is. So learn to build your moments of praise of thanksgiving on the character of God. You will never cease to have occasion to praise Him.

Hannah’s thanksgiving celebration teaches us a lot about how to praise God. She begins with an announcement: *“I am filled with the joy of the Lord. I am filled with the power of the Lord. I am victorious over my enemies, because God is my deliverer.”* So Hannah was looking beyond her immediate experience to her position in the Lord. She would be lonely without little Samuel, but she was filled with joy in the Lord. The enemy would tempt her to question her decision, but she would have power in the Lord. She never mentions her circumstances, and she quickly passes on now from mentioning herself at all. The entire rest of her prayer has one central character: God.

Now look at *how* she prayed. She simply exalted the character of God. What she is actually saying in verses 1 and 2 is that God is holy. God is supreme. What she is actually saying in verse 3 is that God is omniscient. In verse 4, she is saying that God is omnipotent. Verse 5 reveals that God is grace. In verses 6 & 7 she is saying that God is sovereign. In verses 8 & 9 she is really saying that God is mercy. Verse 10 reveals that God is justice. She begins by exalting the holiness of God in verse 2,

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and by proclaiming the supremacy of God that He cannot even be compared to man.

“There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside Thee: neither is there any rock like our God.”

We won't retrace every word for we have a deeper purpose in studying this prayer. But paraphrased, if you will give me the permission to do so, it will sound like this:

*Only God is holy. He alone is our rock. So be silent, earth. Be careful what you say. God is perfect knowledge. The greatest of men have no power, but God is power. Man's destiny is not confined to himself. The full man may go hungry, the starving man may be fed. The barren woman may have seven sons, the mother of many may cease to bear for God is grace. He takes life. He gives life. He makes some poor and others rich, for God is sovereign. He takes those who are nothing and exalts them to be princes. He does whatever He chooses. His children are kept forever, no matter how strong the enemy seems to be, for God is mercy. Though His enemies seem for a time to reign, they will be dashed into pieces. God will thunder in the heavens and one day judge the earth, for God is justice.*

Do you see the underlying essence of Hannah's praise? She is pre-occupied with the nature of God. Are you? Are you so mindful of who God is, that it is perfectly natural for you to break into an anthem of praise even amidst the darkest of circumstances? That is *real* praying. Hannah was not even exalting what God had done. What God had done had simply reminded Hannah of who God is. When your heart is so filled with the knowledge of who God is, you have to praise Him. You may be reminded of who He is by answered prayer as Hannah was. So you praise Him that He is the God of all power and nothing is too hard for Him. You may praise Him that He is perfect faithfulness and always keeps His Word. You may praise Him that He is perfect love and He keeps His word because He cares.

But you may also be reminded of who God is by great tragedy. While the circumstances will give you no cause for joy, still they will remind you that God is eternal, so life is eternal, and pain and death and disease must one day disappear. So now you can

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praise Him. You can praise Him because He is faithful and a day of reuniting with all of His children must come to pass as He promised. You can praise Him that He is perfect power and will raise His saints to be with Him. Nothing can stop Him. God is perfect knowledge, so this tragedy did not catch Him unaware. God is omnipresent, so He was there. God is love. He cares. He weeps. He understands. Even tragedy is cause for rejoicing and praise when tragedy reminds you of the character of God.

What if you just committed a serious mistake in your life or became aware of impending consequences? The world says, depression. The Word says, praise Him. Praise Him for His forgiveness, for as soon as you confessed, He cast your sin even beyond what He chooses to see. Praise Him that He is perfect mercy, and an abundance of protection surrounds you. Praise Him that He is perfect sovereignty. Even the scarlet threads are woven into the tapestry of your life in order to highlight the ones of pure gold. Praise Him for His love because it cannot change, no matter what you have done. Praise Him for His grace, that enabled you to begin again. Immediately you will be filled with His enabling power.

There is no circumstance that does not call for praise. Answered prayer calls for praise. Unanswered prayer calls for praise. Moments of joy call for praise. Moments of despair call for praise. The winds of life swirl from every direction, one moment there is the soft breeze of love captivating us and the next moment the torrents of hurricane-force tribulation beat against us. The winds of life can change at any moment. Always, though, there is cause for praise, for amidst the glow of victory, God is. Amidst the thunder cloud of testing, God is. Amidst the apparent doom of failure, even our failure, God is.

We need to learn to focus on the nature of God, and we will cease being pre-occupied even with the activities of God, for we cannot draw conclusions about the character of God from the activities of God alone. No, we must rather base our conclusions about the activities of God from what we know of the character of God. Otherwise, when death strikes, or disease strikes, you will draw wrong conclusions about who God is, based upon what you see Him doing or allowing. But if you see death or disease rather in the light of who God is, you understand its purpose, His sovereign plan, His eternal nature and ours. Do you see? You learn to praise Him as Hannah did. Her focus was not on Samuel.

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She was leaving him behind. Her focus was not on Peninnah; she had to go along with her. Her focus was not on herself; Hannah was incidental to the problem. Her focus was on the character of God.

One last thing: Do not simply praise God for His attributes. Praise Him for His nature. His attributes spring forth from who He is, but *even they are not the real cause for our rejoicing*. Our rejoicing is based on His character. You see, it is not simply that God *possesses* holiness. If God simply possessed holiness, there would have to be a part of God that might not be holy. God does not simply possess the attribute of holiness. God IS holy. Therefore, He possesses no thought, no action, no plan that is less than total holiness. His love is a holy love. His knowledge springs forth from His holiness. His mercy is a part of His holiness. He cannot be less than totally holy at any time. That is why He cannot look upon sin. That is why we have to have a Savior. From His perfect holiness springs forth His perfect love, so He sent His only Son to satisfy that need and make us holy as He is holy. It is not enough to worship Him because He possesses holiness or possesses love or possesses mercy or possesses power. Worship Him because He is holiness; all holiness comes from Him. Worship Him because He is love; all love emanates from Him. Worship Him because He is power; all power belongs to God. So it is not simply what God has or even what God has done, but rather that God IS. Therefore, our hearts can leap with joy. Therefore, our lips can echo praise continually. Hannah's heart was filled with thanksgiving. Even in the midst of giving up her miracle child, she was filled with praise because she knew the God who IS.

Christian friend, you and I can have our entire perspective of life changed and our entire perspective of prayer changed if we simply and aggressively come to know, not just the God who can, or the God who does, not even just the God who will, but simply the God who IS.

Now if you will, the scene shifts more than 1,000 years. The God who IS has sent His Son to earth to further reveal His nature. Then His Son was to die so that we could become increasingly as He is, and even one day see Him as He is and be totally as He is. His Son was walking this earth demonstrating that His Father is perfect love. The story is familiar. Turn to Luke 17,

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And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.

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 show 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.  
(Luke 17:11-19)

No doubt you have heard that story many times. The Master was on His way to Jerusalem. His journey *just happened* to go along the edge of Samara. Every step that Jesus took led Him to places where people had great needs, for every step took Him to where the Holy Spirit led Him. As He entered the village, He could see from a distance a straggly band of ten men huddling against each other, intentionally being avoided by all the others. They were lepers. The very word spelled reproach and persecution and indignity. For years, they had lived at the fringes of life as outcasts, undesirables, incurables. Their fate was one of mere existence until life ended and ended their grief.

From a distance, Jesus saw them. At that instance, His eyes of holiness met their eyes of desperation, and the ten cried out at once, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" Without hesitation Jesus spoke, "Go, show yourselves at once to the priest." He did this because Leviticus 14 tells us that should a leper be cured he must show himself to the priest where a lengthy process of purification allowed them to re-enter society again. Apparently all ten turned and headed for the temple. What mixture of fear and hope must have filled their hearts. Then, suddenly, as they were going, all ten of them were healed. Cured. Made clean. This man from Galilee had just spoken, and the impossible had become a



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reality. Can you imagine the joy, the relief, the expectation, the gratitude they must have felt?

The scene now shifts in verse fifteen, and we read that one of the men, upon seeing that he was cured, turned around, left the other nine, and raced back to where this amazing carpenter's son was ministering. Upon finding Jesus, he fell on his face in utter humility and with an unspeakable attitude of gratitude, he cried out over and over and over, "Thank you, Lord; thank you, Lord; thank you, Lord." The Scripture reads that not only had he been a leper, but he was a Samaritan as well. But Jesus looked into his eyes, and asked not only him but the question of the whole crowd, "Were not ten of you cleansed? Where are the other nine?" Were there no others than this foreigner who were grateful enough to return and say thanks? "Go your way," He bid the Samaritan, "Your faith has made you whole." Ten were healed. One was made whole, because he was grateful enough to return and say, "Thank you, Jesus; thank you, Jesus."

The question haunts us as we read this passage. Jesus asked the crowd, "Where are the nine?" He hadn't healed them from the common cold. What had happened would not cause a slight alteration in their lifestyle; it caused a revolution in their lifestyle. They were no longer destined for the junk heap of society, now they were restored to acceptability and to responsibility. They had been healed. "Where are they now?" the Master asked. "Where are the nine?"

Down through the ages, that question has been asked again and again and again. God heals us and ministers to us. He sends us on our way new men and women. Daily the miracle is repeated in our lives. Could it be true that even today only 10% of His children will bother to stop enjoying the results of their healing long enough to fall at His feet and worship Him for the reality of their healing? Or do we simply take Him for granted? Who He is. What He has done. What He is doing.

Like the nine, do we assume an attitude of presumption that says, "Well, others have been healed. We are sick. We, too, deserve to be spiritually healed. We've been healed. We've been saved. Therefore, we now have what we rightfully deserve. So we will go on our way." Or are we like the one who stops and cries out, "Lord, I am afflicted. God have mercy upon me. I do not deserve it. Oh, God, I simply cried out and I was healed. I must

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go back and find Him. I must go back and thank Him. I must go back and worship Him.” How that thrills the heart of God. How it completes the healing process and makes us whole.

### PRAISE

What about you? *Do you have an attitude of gratitude?* Is praise a natural part of your experience? Is the bulk of your time spent in worship and thanksgiving? In addition to praising God just for Himself, the Scripture lists at least eleven things we are supposed to give Him thanks for, continually. Each of them points to the marvelous character of God. You may want to make a list of them and look them up for yourself. Here are some things we are to always praise God for.

1- The Scripture says to always praise Him that God reveals Himself to the simple. (Luke 10:21) Isn't that great? Isn't that how you and I qualified? When was the last time you praised God that He reveals Himself to the simple?

2- In John 11:41, we are admonished to thank Him continually that He always listens. Have you ever picked up the phone and called God and found the phone line busy or off the hook? Never. When was the last time you thanked Him for His availability?

3- In Matthew 15:36 and Luke 9:16 and Acts 27:35 we are told to thank Him for giving us food. Do you always do that? It is a gift and it is a portrait of the bread come down from heaven. Always thank Him for your food.

4- In II Thessalonians 1, Romans 16, II Timothy 1 and I Thessalonians 1, we are taught to always say, “Thank you, Lord, for other Christians.” How often do you stop and just praise Him for the rest of the body of Christ?

5- Colossians 4:2 and Psalm 118:21 reminds us to thank God for answered prayer. So does the passage we just studied. I don't mean a casual, “Thank you, Lord, I really needed that.” I mean returning to Him and falling on your face saying, “Thank you, Lord; thank you, Lord,” the same way the leper did.

6- We are told in I Timothy 2:1 to give Him thanks continually for those in authority over us. How often do you praise God for those He has placed in authority over you? We ought to praise Him. If they were not in authority, *maybe we would be* (and then we would all be in trouble).

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7- Psalm 139:14 says to give thanks for the way God made us. Do you do that? Not because of what we see in the mirror, but because of what we see in the mirror of His Word.

8- Romans 11:20 and I Timothy 1:12 remind us that we are supposed to constantly thank Him for His grace.

9- II Corinthians 9:15 tells us that we are to constantly thank Him for His Son.

10- James 1:3 & 4 says that we are to constantly thank Him for our trials.

11- Romans 8:28, II Thessalonians 5:18 and Philippians 4:6-8 tells us to thank Him for everything.

Thank God for each of these things regularly. They each surface for you a different facet of the diamond of the character of God for you to worship. Beloved, God expects us to be grateful. He expects us to have an attitude of gratitude, continually. We are to be expecting nothing and receiving everything with thanksgiving and praise.

### PRESUMPTUOUS CHRISTIANS

Then why are we not more grateful? Why are we so presumptuous with God? I believe the reasons have to do with this principle. I believe that in the spiritual realm, we are children of the King and joint heirs with Christ. All the treasures of the heavenlies have been given to us and always will be ours. But the problem is that we live in a physical world. We mistakenly demand of God presumptuously that He meet our physical needs and desires as though He owed it to us. I think there are at least five reasons why we do that.

1- We are presumptuous because we don't understand the rights of a sinner. Romans 6:23 says that the wages that sin pays is death. In other words, eternal separation from God. *We came to Christ as condemned prisoners.* By reason of our transgressions, we yielded our rights. Now, no longer do we have the right to demand our way. The Master has set us free, but not because we deserved it. Our role is not to demand our rights, but rather to assume an attitude of gratitude.

2- We don't understand the rights of a stranger. We are strangers and pilgrims on this earth. This is not our home. We have entered a new kingdom, but on our way home we must stay

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a spell in a land that is not our own. Like visitors in Russia or China or Iran, we don't strut around demanding our rights. By reason of citizenship, we have yielded our rights. We are living in enemy territory. Ours ought to be an attitude of gratitude for whatever God sends our way.

3- We don't understand the rights of a bond slave either. We have yielded our right to demand our way and given ourselves totally and completely as bond slaves, slaves by choice, to our new Master. Paul said that he was a bond slave, a slave by choice, of Jesus Christ. Servants don't go around demanding sterling silver. Servants humbly say, "Thank you," for whatever they get with an attitude of gratitude.

4- We don't understand the magnitude of Calvary. What happened is this: God, the perfect One, the holy One, the sinless One, came to earth and He traded all of His righteousness in exchange for all of our sins. My friend, a transaction like that hardly qualifies us to demand our rights. It qualifies us instead to have an attitude of gratitude.

5- We aren't more grateful because we don't understand man's natural desire to establish an "RLE". An "RLE" is a Rising Level of Expectancy. What that simply means is this: We think that God owes us, whatever the best we have ever had happens to be. If we get more money, that is our new level of expectancy. It never enters our minds to go back to that smaller house or that older car or that lesser job and be grateful to God that we have a house at all, or a car at all, or a job at all. We are victims of man's rising level of expectations. That robs us of developing an attitude of gratitude. We think that God owes us a family. Does He? We think that God owes us good health. Does He? We think that God owes us long life. Does He? We think that God owes us financial security, freedom from persecution, acceptance of our peers. Does He? Family? Health? Long life? Security? Freedom from persecution? Peer acceptance? If we deserve that, what about Paul? What about Jesus? Do you see the problem? God's desire is constant thanksgiving for what He has done, but mostly for who He is. But we have misread our rights and responsibilities and missed the mark and demanded of Him things we have no right to demand, so we are not grateful.

### WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

You knew we would come to this point, didn't you? What are

we going to do about it? I have three suggestions to make.

1 - We have made this suggestion before and I will do it again. Let's designate at least one day a week at our house to be Praise Day. On that day, let's agree together that we will not ask for anything or complain about anything, not even the cooking, or do anything spiritual but praise Him. Maybe it could be every Monday. You can even make it Monday, Wednesday and Friday at your house to be Praise Day. You can devise projects for your family or let each family member make their own list of things they have to be praising God for. Or let each one pick a psalm or praise verse to sing at the table. Praise. Thanksgiving. Not just once a year.

2- Take on as a life-long project an unending study of the character of God. I say unending because we will finish it in heaven. But let's don't stop until we get there. Take three months, for instance as a start, and as a family take each quality of the character of God. Take at least a part of your day of praise to worship God for that quality of His nature. I don't mean that He *has* love, I mean that He *IS* love, perfect love. Relate that love to every experience of your life.

3- Turn Philippians 4:8 into your life-time conversation goal. Whatever things are true, whatever things are honest, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; whenever there is virtue, whenever there is praise, think on these things and talk about these things. Make your house headquarters for the positive process of praise. Build up one another. Encourage one another. Praise God together for who He is and for one another.

We need to set aside a day a week for nothing but praise. We need to set our sights on a life-time of learning the character of God. We need to redefine our goals to encourage others just to look at Him. These are not overnight objectives. They will take a lifetime, but unless we see the need and yield ourselves to meaning it, we may well come to the end of our lives and find that we have missed God's best and are painfully unprepared for the primary work God is preparing us to do in heaven. Do you know what that work will be? Praising Him.

So many people are clamoring today to find the will of God. It seems that daily someone comes to me and says. "If only I knew the will of God, I would do it." Beloved, from this day forward,

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you know a big part of the will of God for your life. It is found in I Thessalonians 5:18 and it says simply this,

In everything [that is, in all situations] be continually giving thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Do you want to do the will of God? Begin right there. Begin with Hannah. Begin with the one leper who returned. Learn to live life with “an attitude of gratitude”.

### AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

They saw the Master passing by  
Surrounded by the throng,  
In bleak humiliation, they  
Had suffered for so long.

They were the nation's outcasts  
Untouchables they were,  
Yet, when they saw the Master  
Their faith began to stir.

At last, in desperation,  
Lest He should pass them by,  
These ten unwanted lepers  
Began their feeble cry.

“Have mercy on us, Master!”  
And Jesus stopped and turned,  
And said, “Go now, and show the priests.”  
Their hearts must so have burned.

For as they, racing, went their way  
God's power was revealed,  
As they were yet returning  
*All ten of them were healed.*

And now, a later setting,  
Some time has come and gone,  
One man returns to Jesus  
The others have gone on.

This one, on seeing he was healed  
Continued to repeat,  
“I have been healed, O thank you Lord!”  
And falling at His feet,

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He simply worshipped Jesus,  
And pouring out his soul,  
He heard the Master say, "Now, go!  
Thy faith hath made thee whole."

But still, there echoes from the Word  
Throughout the age of time,  
The Master's penetrating words,  
"Where are the other nine?"

One man had come with grateful heart  
His song of praise to tell,  
But what about the other nine?  
Were they not healed as well?

Oh, do not we, ungratefully  
So often fail to say,  
A simple, "Thank you, Jesus  
For all you've done today."

Or better still, should we not be  
In constant, awesome praise,  
Continually, for WHO GOD IS  
His Worth, His Word, His Ways!

Oh, God, may we in love, assume,  
With 'naught but praise to give,  
An attitude of gratitude  
As long as we shall live.

### For Focus and Application

1- Think about the concept of giving back to God the very things He has given to you in answer to prayer. Reread the story of Abraham and Isaac. We know that God often withholds things from us that we want in order to make us dependent so we will ask and thus give Him glory. Why, then, does He often seem to take back or test us by asking for the very things He gave us?

2- What is there in your life that God has given you and then seemingly asked you to be willing to give back? Your job? Your mate? Your house? Your children? What lies does Satan tell you when that happens?

3- Memorize I Samuel 1:27,28 and insert for the word "child" whatever it is that you might be struggling about giving up.

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Meditate on it this week. Ask God to call it to your attention when you are tempted to be ungrateful.

4- Read Hannah's "Celebration of Praise" again in I Samuel 2:1-11. Make a list of God's attributes included in the song. Why was she focusing on who God is, rather than just what He had done for her? How ought this concept to affect our prayer lives?

5- How can learning to praise God for who He is affect our praise in times of tragedy? How can it affect our praise in times of triumph? In times of loneliness? In times of fear?

6- Reread Luke 17:11-19. Do you think that the percentage of those who were grateful for such an incredible personal miracle (10%) might still apply today? Why is the human soul so ungrateful? What is the basic sin? How do you think Jesus must have felt when the other nine were healed and simply went their way?

7- Can you think of times when you have done unselfish things for people and never heard a word of thanks? How did you feel? Can you imagine how God's heart must break when we ask and receive, and never so much as even say, "Thanks, Lord", let alone fall on our faces before Him in awe that He would answer our prayers and do such wondrous things for us?

8- This lesson lists eleven things for which God instructs us to continually give thanks. Review those and the verses listed, and spend a week praising God for the eleven things.

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