

The Thanksgiving Faith Has Saved You

Main Bible Verse:

(Luke 17:19) Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

Summary:

1. We must not lose our heart of thanksgiving, for the thanksgiving faith is the foundation of our salvation. God never takes our lightly, He looks at our heart. When the ten lepers come before Jesus seeking healing despite of how the society sees them and despite of their own feelings, they received the word of Jesus, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." When they followed Jesus' word, they were healed. (Luke 17:14)
2. All ten of them were healed of leprosy, but only one came back to give thanks to the Lord. The other nine received only the healing of their body, while the one who came back to Jesus received complete healing of spirit, soul, and body, and received salvation.
3. (Luke 17:15-16) The person who received complete healing and salvation did the following three important things: (1) He came back, praising God in a loud voice. (2) He threw himself at Jesus' feet. (3) He thanked Jesus.
4. We come to church to learn to praise God. When we lift up our hands, surrender ourselves to God, and praise Him, the Spirit of the Lord will fill us and help us. The Spirit of the Lord will put the revelation and word of God in our heart and guide us.
5. (Luke 17:19) The heart of Thanksgiving will help us to receive the word of God and to enter into the glory of His kingdom.

Three Characters showed us how the thanksgiving faith has helped them:

A. The Thanksgiving Faith of Elisha (II Kings 2:1-2)

- Gilgal means roll away the reproach from you. Therefore, when you come before God, you must depart from Gilgal, your old self. Depart from your past reproach and enter into the glory of God, the Bethel of God. It means to put down our own feelings and thoughts and enter the temple of God. Do not follow man. Follow only God and to walk with God. (II Kings 2:1-2)
- (II Kings 2:3-4) Depart from our own will and flesh. Do not be influenced by how others see you or feel about you, but to enter thanksgiving faith and follow Jesus. God values your faith to follow Him and helps you accordingly.
- (II Kings 2:9-11) When Elisha overcame his own feelings and continued to follow, fixed his eyes and followed, Elijah asked him, "What can I do for you?" Elisha was a good student. He was willing to learn and to trust his teacher's word and guidance. He received the way and inherited a double portion of the spirit.
- (II Kings 2:12) Elisha is a man with thanksgiving faith. He was thankful to his teacher. He honored his teacher like a father and glorified him. God values such heart and blesses men like this. (Exodus 20:12/Ephesians 6:2)
- We must honor not only our physical parents, but also our spiritual parents. For they prayed for us, kept watch over us, and must give an account for us. If we make their work a burden, that would be of no benefit to us. (Hebrews 13:17)

B. The Thanksgiving Faith of Ruth

- Ruth was from a time of darkness when people do not have God's word and do not honor God. Ruth loved Naomi, for Naomi introduced God to Ruth and taught her God's word. When Naomi tried to send Ruth back to her hometown to get re-married, Ruth did not want to leave Naomi.

- Ruth willingly followed her mother-in-law Naomi and honored her, for Ruth had known God, who guided Israel. Ruth no longer wanted to follow her own earthly plan, but to seek and long for the kingdom and guidance of God. (Ruth 1:16-17)
- Ruth's heart to follow God was firm. God saw such faith and acknowledged it. When Ruth willingly followed God's word and live accordingly, God blessed her with the best husband and put her name in the genealogy of Jesus. With her willingness to follow, God blessed her with the best plan, God's plan. (Psalms 103:19-22)
- Ruth's thanksgiving faith was activated by the gospel her mother-in-law shared with her. The foundation of Ruth's great blessing is her thanksgiving faith toward the gospel, and toward the person who shared the gospel with her.

C. The Thanksgiving Faith of David (I Samuel 24)

- Saul kept on perusing David. God put Saul into the cave where David was hiding to test David, and to give Saul the chance to repent. (I Samuel 24:3)
- David honored God, thus honored His anointed one. He was also thankful of Saul of being his father-in-law. He taught his follower never to harm Saul and called Saul, ""My lord the king!" (I Samuel 24:8)
- Because of David's thanksgiving faith, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of Saul's robe. He expressed his honor to the anointed one and that he would never cause any harm to Saul. (I Samuel 24:5, 24:8-10)
- (I Samuel 24:15-21) David's thanksgiving faith received blessing of God and man.

6. (Matthew 6:12-15) Jesus taught us to forgive others when they sin against you. God knows this is a command that is hard to execute, hence showed us the importance of having thanksgiving faith. We must learn to call out to God and seek His help to overcome. God will empower us to forgive, to not focus on the word of man, and to bless others.
- God has His plan for all who are brought to us, to help us witness His wonderful work and glory. We must learn to bless others with thanksgiving faith and help them to receive such wonderful salvation.
 - Jesus taught us in the Lord's prayer, that we must forgive our debtors. (eg. Monetary debt, emotional debt, the debt of the gospel.) When we forgive our debtors, we will experience that God lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.
7. (Matthew 16:17-19) Jesus taught Peter, "on this rock I will build my church." On this rock, we must love our church, be thankful to our church, and be thankful to all the brothers and sisters who silently serve God in our church. We must honor church and never to criticize or slander the church, for Jesus taught us, "on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."
8. With David's thanksgiving faith, he received a key from God, what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. With the thanksgiving faith, we come before God and learn to worship, to pray, to forgive others, to follow God's word, to be patient in God's word, to share the gospel, and to bless others. (Revelation 3:7-10)