

Grace-Driven Gratitude  
Psalm 100:1-5

On Thanksgiving Day, we carry out a tradition that is as old as America. In 1621, after a terrible year in which half their number died of starvation or disease, the Pilgrims set aside three days to praise their Lord for a bountiful corn harvest. Our founding fathers knew that we as a nation had much for which we should be thankful, and in 1789, George Washington proclaimed Nov 26 as a national day of thanksgiving to the Lord. While for many in America this Thursday will simply be a day off from work to gorge ourselves with food and watch football, for believers in Jesus, it should be so much more.

1. Grace enables us to express gratitude to God.
  
2. Grace enables us to expand gratitude in life.
  
3. Grace enables us to expect gratitude as believers.

So often, we hear about Jesus and we immediately begin figuring out how to do religion on our terms. We start thinking about what we will have to give up. We equate what Christ has done with joining a church and trying to engage a group of people with whom we have nothing in common. Instead of doing all that, as we consider what Christ has done for us, would we be willing to offer a simple and singular word back to him? Would we simply sit before him and say, "Thanks?"

For further consideration:

Take some time to consider the blessings, burdens, and benefits that God has brought into your life and find a way to express your gratitude for each one. How will you respond in more than just words to the goodness of God. What changes in your life or your disposition should be made in order to more accurately express gratitude? Are there actions that other see or words that other hear that indicate a dissatisfaction with what God has brought into your life? What new God-honoring traditions can you start with your family this year?