

***Oh Give Thanks to the Lord,  
for He is Good!***

**Ephesians 5:18-21**

**August 17, 2008**

# Defining “Thanksgiving”

- The main Old Testament word is “yadah” and it essentially means “to confess,” that is, to recognize and declare the truth about something, whether good or bad.
- The main New Testament word is “eucharisteo” and it means to be grateful for something to the point of verbalizing thoughts and feelings.

# Defining “Thanksgiving”

*To give thanks is to praise the object of our thanks and in the Bible God himself is almost always the object of thanksgiving.*

*Biblically speaking, thanksgiving is radically God-centered.*

# On Being Filled with the Spirit...

1. To be filled with the Spirit we must speak to one another in Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs;
2. To be filled with the Spirit we must sing and make melody to the Lord in our hearts;
3. To be filled with the Spirit we must give thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;
4. To be filled with the Spirit we must submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

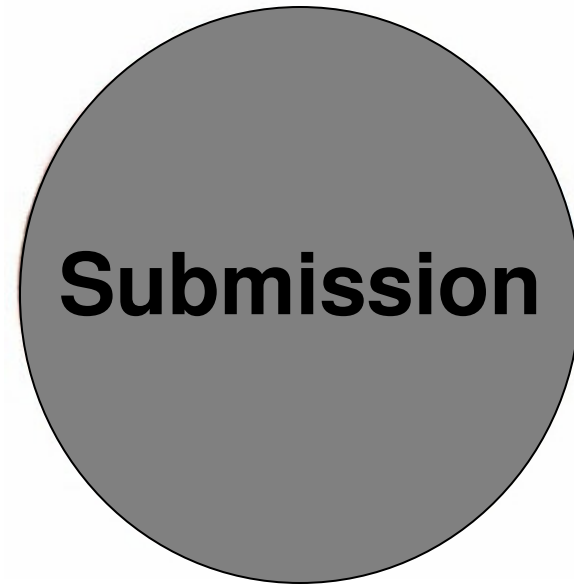
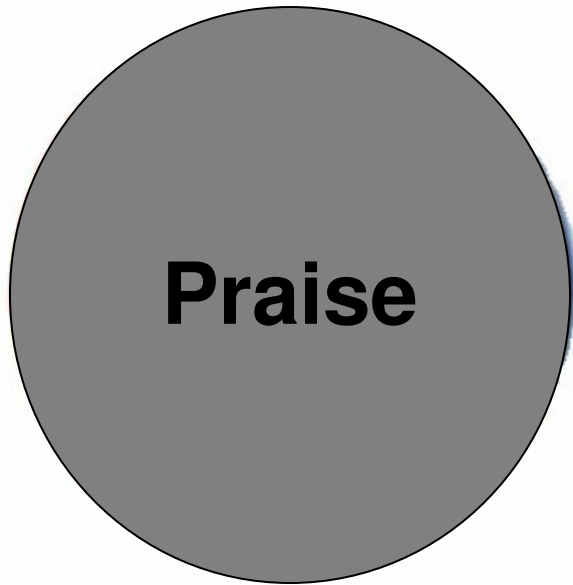
# **Biblical Words for Worship:**

- “Abad” (OT) means to obey or to serve, and the context is usually a master-slave relationship.
- “Shaha” (OT) means to bow or kneel or prostrate oneself and implies not just a lowering of the body but a reverence of heart.
- “Proskuneo” (NT) means precisely the same thing as “shaha.”

# Implications for Worship...

1. The basis of true worship is the infinite superiority of God over all things, and the infinite inferiority of all things under God.
2. Therefore, the essence of true worship is awe and humility.

# Worship is like a Coin...



*Praise is the expression of awe,  
submission is the expression of humility.*

# Worship is like a Garden...



*There can be no garden without the soil, and there can be no praise without submission.*

# **“Thanksgiving” in the Bible:**

*Of 170 occurrences in the ESV...*

*167 of them directly relate to worship!*

# Leviticus 7:11-13

*“And this is the law of the sacrifice of peace offerings that one may offer to the LORD. If he offers it for a thanksgiving, then he shall offer with the thanksgiving sacrifice unleavened loaves mixed with oil, unleavened wafers smeared with oil, and loaves of fine flour well mixed with oil. With the sacrifice of his peace offerings for thanksgiving he shall bring his offering with loaves of leavened bread.”*

# 1 Chronicles 16:4-8

*“Then he [David] appointed some of the Levites as ministers before the ark of the LORD, to invoke, to thank, and to praise the LORD, the God of Israel. Asaph was the chief, and second to him were Zechariah, Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, Obededom, and Jeiel, who were to play harps and lyres; Asaph was to sound the cymbals, and Benaiah and Jahaziel the priests were to blow trumpets regularly before the ark of the covenant of God. Then on that day David **first** appointed that thanksgiving be sung to the LORD by Asaph and his brothers. ‘Oh give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples!’”*

# Nehemiah 12

*As soon as the wall is rebuilt, Nehemiah appoints choirs to worship and give thanks to God and links this to what David and Asaph had done before him.*

# **Psalms...**

***Psalm 30:4***, “Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.”

***Psalm 69:30-31***, “I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving. This will please the LORD more than an ox or a bull with horns and hoofs.”

***Psalm 105:1-2***, “Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!”

# Prophets...

**Isaiah 12:4**, *“Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted”*

**Jonah 2:9**, *“But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay.*

*Salvation belongs to the LORD!”*

# Romans 1:21

*“For although they [the unrighteous from around the world] knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”*

# Revelation 4:9-11

*“And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ‘Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.’”*

# Psalm 107:1-3

*“Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever! Let  
the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he  
has redeemed from trouble and gathered in  
from the lands, from the east and from the  
west, from the north and from the south”*