

“OH GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD!”
EPHESIANS 5:18-21
AUGUST 17, 2008

Questions for Study and Reflection

1. To give thanks to God is to confess the truth about him with gladness, gratefulness, and sincerity; it is to praise the object of our thanks. When you give thanks to God do you tend to be more focused on God himself or the thing that he gave to you or did for you? Regardless of how you answer that question, how can you grow so that God is more and more at the center of your thanksgiving?
2. Look up Ephesians 5:20, Philippians 4:6, and 1 Thessalonians 5:18. Why do you think Paul uses such extreme language in calling us to live a life of thanksgiving?
3. In Ephesians 5:18-21 Paul lists four means by which we are to be filled with the Holy Spirit. What are the four means? How do these four things relate to living a life of worship?
4. Pastor Charlie said that the basis of true worship is the infinite superiority of God, and the infinite inferiority of all things in relation to God. Do you think this is true? Why is this the basis of worship?
5. Pastor Charlie said that the essence of worship is awe and humility. Do you think this is true? Why are these qualities the essence of worship?
6. How is worship like a coin? How is worship like a garden? (Hint: praise & submission).
7. Pastor Charlie said that in the English Standard Version 167 of 170 uses of the words “thank, thanks, thanked, thanksgiving, etc.” are directly related to worship. What does this tell you about the connection between thanksgiving and worship? Why do you think the Bible makes such a profound link between the two?
8. Using a concordance or Bible software, look up variations of the word “thank,” read the verses in context, and ask the Lord to help you both understand and practice thanksgiving. If doing this exercise as a family, divide up the texts, study on your own, and then come back together for discussion.