

**“GIVE UNENDING THANKS:  
HOW GOD MAKES THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE”  
EPHESIANS 5:18-21  
AUGUST 24, 2008**

*Questions for Study and Reflection*

1. The ESV uses various words for “thanksgiving” 170 times, 167 of which directly relate to worship. What do you think the significance of this close relationship to worship is? What practical effect should it have on the way you live your life?
2. Pastor Charlie said the command to “give thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” sounded to him like “give thanks as often as you breathe.” Do you think this command is that radical? If so, do you think it’s impossible to keep on your own?
3. Are you a thankful person? How have you grown in this respect as you’ve come to know Christ better?
4. Pastor Charlie said that the biblical pattern of thanksgiving is that we give thanks to the Father through the Son by the power of the Spirit (Rom. 5:1-2, Eph. 2:17-17, 3:11-12, 5:18, 5:20). He also said that this is identical to the pattern of our salvation (Eph. 2:1-3, 2:12, 4:18-19, 5:8, Eph. 2:4, 1:4, 1:5, 1:7, 2:5-6, John 3:1-8, Eph. 1:13-14, 2:18, 2 Cor. 3:18, 1 Pet. 1:2, and 1:13-16). Look up all of these texts, and any cross-references you find, and probe more deeply into this pattern. Why do you think God arranged things this way? How does this knowledge produce hope that we’ll be able to give thanks to God always and for everything?
5. Pastor Charlie shared the story of Ron Porter and his daughter mowing the lawn. Do you see how that story relates to our need to depend on the Holy Spirit to help us give thanks?