

## **An Active Heart of Gratitude**

### **October 9, 2022**

#### **Why should we give thanks to God?**

**Psalm 18:1-3**, *“I love You, O Lord, my strength.” The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.”*

#### **1. God Wants a Close Connection with You.**

**John 14:6**, *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”*

**James 4:7-8**, *“Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”*

#### **2. God is Your Strength**

#### **3. God is Your Rock**

**2 Samuel 22:32-34**, *“Who is God, besides the Lord? And who is a rock, besides our God? <sup>33</sup> “God is my strong fortress; and He sets the blameless in His way. <sup>34</sup> “He makes my feet like hinds’ feet, and sets me on my high places.”*

#### **4. God is Your Fortress**

**Psalm 125:2**, *“As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people from this time forth and forever.”*

#### **5. God is Your Deliverer**

**Psalm 18:4-6**, *“The cords of death encompassed me, and the torrents of ungodliness terrified me. <sup>5</sup> The cords of Sheol surrounded me; the snares of death confronted me. <sup>6</sup> In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried to my God for help.”*

**Psalm 18:6-8**, *“God heard my voice out of His temple, and my cry for help before Him came into His ears. <sup>7</sup> Then the earth shook and quaked; and the foundations of the mountains were trembling and were shaken, because He was angry. <sup>8</sup> Smoke went up out of His nostrils, and fire from His mouth devoured; coals were kindled by it.”*

**Psalm 18:9-11**, “God bowed the heavens also, and came down with thick darkness under His feet. <sup>10</sup> He rode upon a cherub and flew; and He sped upon the wings of the wind. <sup>11</sup> He made darkness His hiding place, His canopy around Him, darkness of waters, thick clouds of the skies.”

**Psalm 18:12-16**, “From the brightness before God passed His thick clouds, hailstones, and coals of fire. <sup>13</sup> The Lord also thundered in the heavens, and the Most High uttered His voice, hailstones, and coals of fire. <sup>14</sup> He sent out His arrows, and scattered them, and lightning flashes in abundance, and routed them. <sup>15</sup> Then the channels of water appeared, and the foundations of the world were laid bare at Your rebuke, O Lord, at the blast of the breath of Your nostrils. <sup>16</sup> He sent from on high, He took me; the Lord drew me out of many waters.”

**How do we give thanks to God? Luke 17:11-19**

**1. You say thank you to God, when you are more like Christ, than you are like the world**

**1 John 2:6**, “The one who says he abides in Jesus ought to walk in the same manner as Jesus walked.”

**2. You say thank you to God, when you spend time with Him and crave Him**

**Psalm 42:1-2**, captures this thought well, “As the deer pants for the water, so my soul pants for You, O God. <sup>2</sup> My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.”

**3. You say thank you to God when you forgive those that have wronged you**

**Matthew 6:14-15**, “If you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.”

**4. You say thank you to God when you serve**

**Luke 10:45**, “Even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

**5. You say thank you to God when you reach out to the hurting**

**Matthew 25:45**, “Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.”

**6. You say thank you to God when you deny yourself and pick up your cross daily and follow Jesus**

**Luke 9:23**, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.”