

Are you a grateful person test...

Question #1: Which do you tend to talk about more – your blessings, or your disappointments?

Question #2: Are you a complainer, always grumbling, always finding fault with your circumstances?

Question #3: Are you content with what you have, or always dissatisfied and wanting more?

Question #4: Do you find it easier to count your blessings, or is it easier to count your problems?

Questions #5: Do you express thanks to others when they help you, or do you just take it for granted?

Question #6: Would others say that you are a thankful person?



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Ralph Howe Ministries

"Loving God, Equipping People, Mentoring Leaders, Reaching Nations

NEW RESOURCES THIS WEEK ON THE WEB

These are free downloads available for you on-line

Every day Ralph posts a new blog on his web site dealing with current world and church situations as well as insights into Christian living

Every day articles are posted on line regarding what he is preaching on Sundays ... prayer, making a difference, and upcoming teachings such as "Stop Dating the Church" and "Embrace the Grace" (his Christmas series this year)

During every trip overseas Ralph files a daily report of the work being done in the country he is working in. And, pictures are posted at the end of each trip along with a brief report

All Sunday teachings are filed—full text, printout and audio recording of the teaching

All free and for you to use in any way you want as you share the Gospel and minister to others

Prayer Requests for this week...

For planning of 2012-2013 overseas apostolic trips currently under way

For Ralph's work in Ohio with the Apostolic Roundtable at month end and his preaching and ministering in to town of Butler, Ohio

For Ralph's ministry in The Christian and Missionary Alliance Church in Strasbourg, SK. on the 23rd and again on November 4th and 5th

For the continued writing of his book on the apostolic model of the Church Jesus is building

THANKSGIVING CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE
[Being Different So You Can Make a Difference - Part Two]

Not speaking about the day - but a way of life
Story - Montreal couple with children out west
Thanksgiving 2011 edition

God wants His people to be people of _____ and _____

"A thankful spirit is one of the key distinguishing marks of a Christian. It sets us apart from the world, it makes us different."

Psalm 118:1 "Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love endures forever."

LAST SUNDAY: We looked at being joyful and saw six things we needs to incorporate to allow us to be joyful

TODAY: Being thankful at all times

Both will make us different from the world so that we can make a difference in the world

1> THE BENEFITS OF A GRATEFUL HEART

A> Being a grateful person can _____
your _____
↳ _____

Being thankful has nothing to do with your situation or your circumstances—determined by our attitude and our perspective

"Rejoice in the Lord always," he wrote, "and again I say it rejoice." (Philippians 4:4)

Letter of a young woman from college....

Paul had a great perspective - one that he _____ to have regardless of his situation or his circumstances

"Rejoice in the Lord always," he wrote, "and again I say it rejoice." (Philippians 4:4)

B> Being a grateful person can also improve your _____ for Jesus Christ

Having a noticeable countenance of thankfulness and joy will certainly make us better witnesses for Christ

- Content not _____
- _____ not in constant turmoil and confusion
- _____ not down in the mouth
- _____ because we know Jesus is alive and in control
- _____ and not wrapped up in ourselves
- Good listeners because we are at peace
 - 1 Peter 2:12 "Live such good lives among the pagans that they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us."

C> Being a grateful person will also enhance your _____

Married couples...

Just imagine how much better our marriages and our church relationships would be if we expressed our thanks for each other from time to time.

Do you know how the apostle Paul began most of his letters in the Bible?

To the church in Rome he wrote "First, I thank my God for all of you." (Romans 1:8)

To the church in Corinth "I always thank God for you (1 Corinthians 1:4)

To the church in Ephesus "I have not stopped giving thanks for you; remembering you in my prayers." (Ephesians 1:16)

To the church in Philippi "I thank my God every time I remember you." (Philippians 1:3)

To the church in Colossi "I always thank God when I pray for you." (Colossians 1:3)

D> A grateful heart will solidify your relationship with _____

↳ Really the best benefit

Hebrews 12:25 says, "Let us please God by serving him with thankful hearts."

Harriet Martineau - an atheist

There is something inside each of us that needs to express thanks to God

1 Thessalonians 5:18 "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

The benefits of a grateful heart

Increase of your personal contentment

Improvement of your witness for Jesus Christ

Enhancement of your relationships with others

Solidifying your relationship with God

WAYS TO DEVELOP THANKSGIVING IN OUR LIVES

A> Remember that _____ we have is from God

Acknowledge that everything we have is God's and not ours.

Psalm 24:1 says, "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it."

1 Corinthians 4:7 says, "What do you have that you did not receive from God? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?"

James 1:17, "Every good and perfect gift is from above coming down from the Father of heavenly lights, who does not change like the shifting sand."

B> If we want to be thankful we need to avoid _____

Fasting from complaining

Dr. Dale Robbins writes, "I used to think people complained because they had a lot of problems. But I have come to realize that they have problems because they complain. Complaining doesn't change anything or make situations better. It amplifies frustration, spreads discontent and discord, and can invoke an invitation for the devil to cause havoc with our lives."

Psalm 77:3 says, "I complained and my spirit was overwhelmed."

Philippians 2:13 says, "Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe."

C> Develop the daily _____ of _____

Have a praise journal

Create a praise file on your computer or iPhone

Ephesians 5:19 says, "Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything."

Key word: ALWAYS

We are so well off in this nation...