

## THANKSGIVING PRAYER FOR 2021

The expression of Thanksgiving is an important part of our life in the Lord Jesus Christ Yeshua! Here in America, Thanksgiving is an important part of our heritage. From the Plymouth Rock Colony and throughout history, a special day or time of Thanksgiving has been an essential part of our life! Each of our great leaders and presidents have asked all Americans to *give thanks to God!* It is our civic duty to give God thanks and praise!

- Failing to give God thanks and honor causes any society to fall (Romans 1:18-32).
- We are a people in covenant with God. He has promised if we keep His Torah we will have a good life.
- According to the Torah, the First Commandment is to "*have no strange gods before Me.*" In other words, *no idolatry*. Idolatry also includes having a false idea of who God is.
- A lack of thankfulness was at the core of the sin of Adam and Eve. In their decision to eat the forbidden fruit, they were asserting that as creatures—not the Creator, they knew what was best for them, and for us. They did not honor God, nor give Him thanks; so they did not really see all the blessings He had given them. Failing to thank God results in failing to honor Him. We were a fallen creation until Yeshua came to change it all! So, now we are sinners saved by grace and mercy. Our thankfulness is unspeakable. "*Thanks be to God for the indescribable gift.*" (2 Corinthians 9:15)
- An attitude of gratitude is what makes one live a happy life. Being grateful, even in a time of woe, sorrow or hard circumstances, gives us a strength to make it through!
- Did you realize that in all of creation, only man is able to give God praise and honor and thanks while suffering?! The angels do not experience suffering as we do. Even animals in their suffering cannot express as we do!
- The Lord Jesus Christ, Yeshua, has raised up our suffering. He endured it so that we are now one, purified to be with our Father!

The Scriptures are filled with commands to give thanks to God:

- Psalm 106:1 Everyone, thank God, for He is good and easy to please.
- Psalm 107:1 Let everyone give all their praise and thanks to the Lord! Here's why—He is better than anyone could ever imagine.
- Psalm 118:1 Keep on giving thanks to God, for He is so good!
- 1 Chronicles 16:24 Declare His glory among the nations!
- 1 Thessalonians 5:18 In everything give thanks, for this is God's will in Christ Jesus!

The Scriptures list the reasons why we should thank Him:

- Psalm 136:3 His tender love for us continues on forever!
- Psalm 118:29 So let's keep on giving our thanks to God, for He is good! His constant, tender love lasts forever!
- Psalm 100:5 His mercy is everlasting.

The Scriptures tell us God wants us to learn to be thankful for all the gifts He has given us:

- James 1:17 Every gift God gives us is good and perfect.  
Remember: Everything we have is a gift from Him!

In summary:

- We are to be thankful not only for the things that we like, but for things we do not like.
- When we thank God for everything, He allows blessings to come into our lives; keeping bitterness at bay. We cannot be both thankful and bitter at the same time.
- We do not thank God for evil, but that He sustains us through it James 1:12 Faith remains strong in life's difficulties. You will continue to experience His blessings!
- We don't thank Him for harm He did not cause, but we thank Him when He gives us the strength to endure it. 2 Corinthians 12:9, "*My grace is always more than enough for you.*"
- We thank Him for His promise that "*All things will work together for the good, to those who love God and are called according to His purpose.*" Romans 8:28

Outline for Prayer:

1. We enter His courts with Praise and Thanksgiving
2. We give God thanks for:

The Past: Our heritage from Abraham to Yeshua, to the heritage of America

The Present: We are here to win, as God has promised!

The Future: All God's promises will come to pass in our day!

3. We thank Him for forgiving us and making us whole people for such a time as this!