

Message

Give Thanks To God



Neal Parker

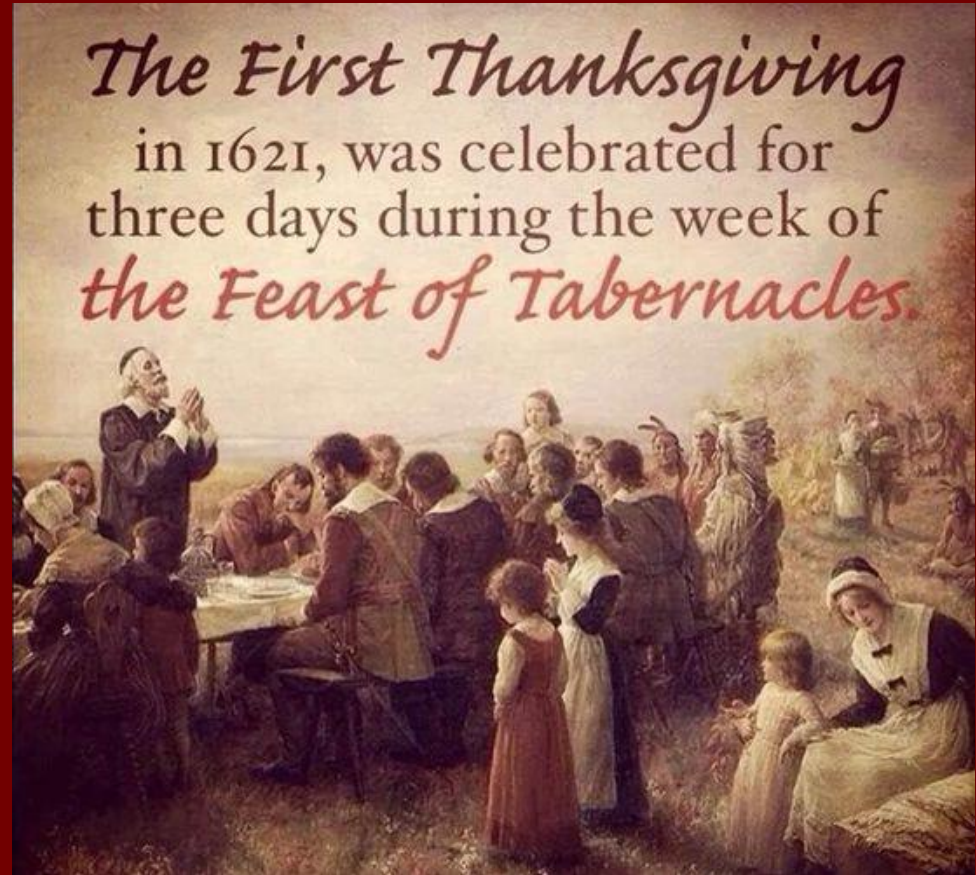
Give Thanks To God

- **The first known use of the word “Thanksgiving” in English text was in a translation of the Bible in 1533.**
- **In the United States and Canada, the tradition began of a day of gratitude (our expressions of gratitude should be daily, in prayer), has continued in the autumn of the year.**



Give Thanks To God

- **Some believe the 1st Thanksgiving in America was celebrated as a 3 day festival in conjunction with Sukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles.**



Give Thanks To God

- **Mashpee Wampanoag, as well as many Native American tribes celebrated thanksgiving 13 times throughout their lunar calendar / Thirteen Moons or Thirteen Thanksgivings.**



Give Thanks To God

- **Spanish explorer expedition of Francisco Vázquez de Coronado in May 1541 celebrated the first feast of Thanksgiving in Palo Duro Canyon.**



Give Thanks To God

- **Sir Martin Frobisher and his crew in the eastern Arctic in 1578.**



Give Thanks To God

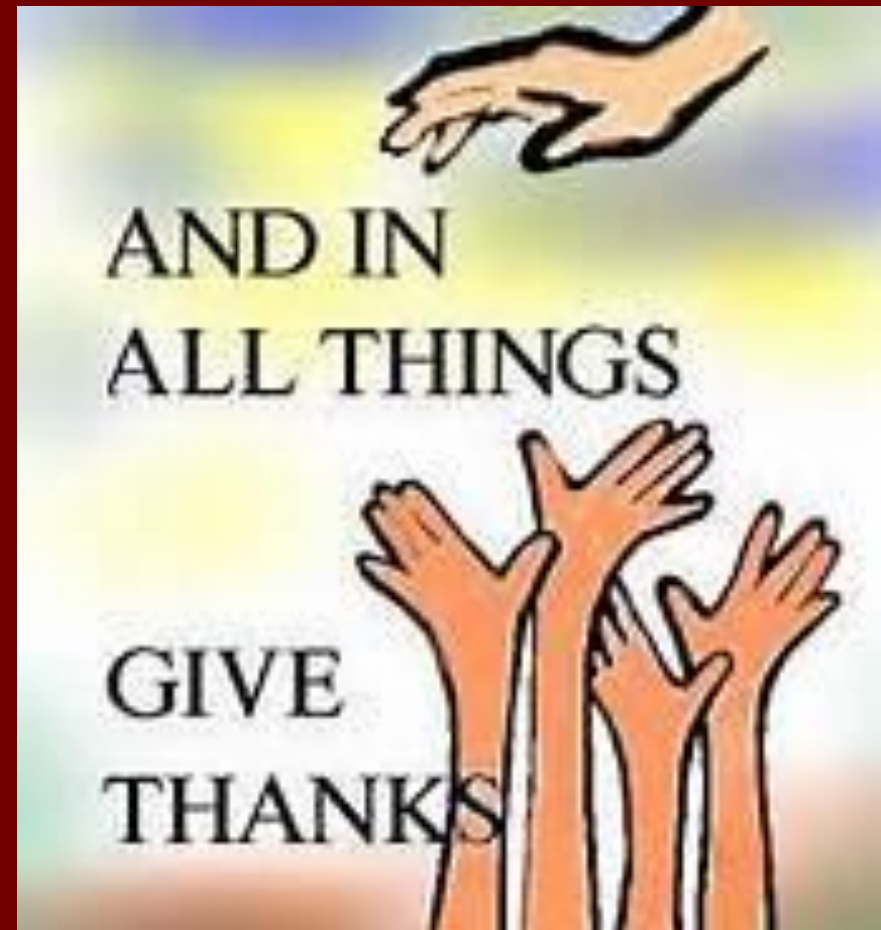
- Spanish explorer Juan de Oñate and his expedition in 1598



Give Thanks To God

- **I Thessalonians 5:16-18**

- **Our joy, prayers and thanksgiving should not fluctuate with our circumstances or feelings**



A Chinese Proverb

- **“If one looks at the sun, all shadows are behind”**

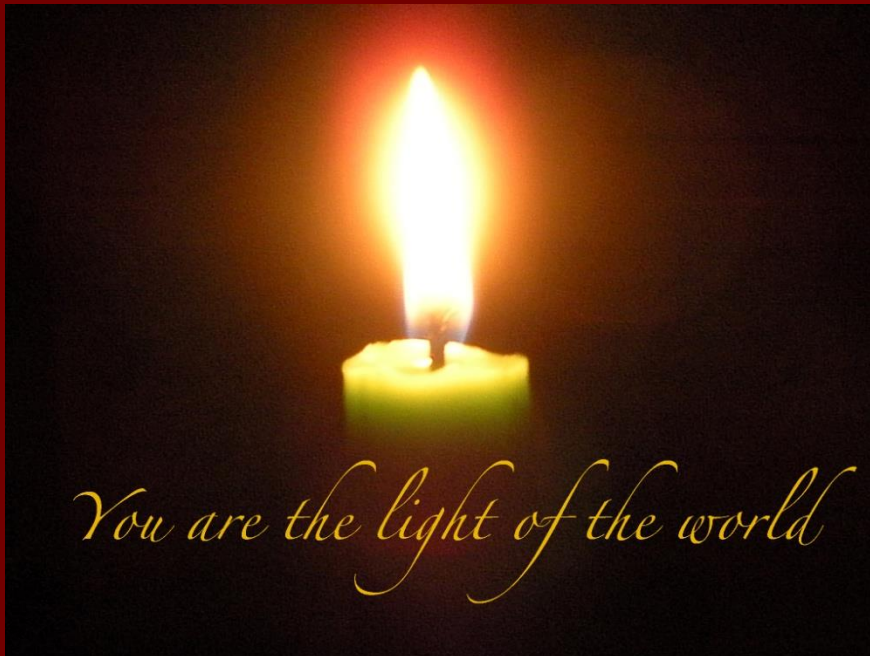


Spiritual Lessons From The Chinese Proverb

- **John 1:1-4, 9-13**
- **John 17:13-21**
- **Romans 10:17**



- **Romans 8:28**
- **Matthew 5:14-16**



Spiritual Application: Give Thanks to God

- **How thankful we are is inextricably bound with how real God and His purpose are to us.**
- **If God is real to us, we can see evidence of His work in the world, in the Church, in our lives and in the lives of others.**
- **Giving thanks to God is a response to the recognition of what God is, what He has shown us of Himself and what He has done for us, as well as others.**

Five Types of Offerings: Give Thanks to God

- **The sacrificial system in the Old Testament should not be viewed as legalistic rites to earn God's grace.**
- **It appears they were a means of grace by which one's unintentional sin might make reparations, as well as an outward expression of a person's inward desire to restore a broken relationship between themselves and God, and between themselves, in their community.**

Five Types of Offerings: Give Thanks to God

■ Burnt Offering

- ❖ The first offering is the *olah*, literally, “an offering of ascent,” commonly called the Burnt Offering. The purpose of the Burnt Offering was for general atonement of sin and expression of devotion to God. The instructions for the Burnt Offering are given in Lev 1:3-17. The offering could be a bull (1:3), sheep or goat (1:10), or dove or pigeon (1:14). The animal was to be burnt whole overnight (6:8-13), though its skin was given to the priest (1:6). The Burnt Offering was likely the earliest type of atonement offering in the Old Testament (Job 1:5, Gen 8:20).

Five Types of Offerings: Give Thanks to God

■ Grain Offering

- ❖ The second type of offering in the Old Testament is the *minchah*, or Grain Offering. The purpose of the Grain Offering was a voluntary expression of devotion to God, recognizing His goodness and providence. The instructions for the grain offerings are given in Leviticus 2. Generally it was cooked bread—baked (2:4), grilled (2:5), fried (2:7), roasted, or made into cereal (2:14). Although the *minchah* was instructed to be a freewill offering of grains, it appears that earlier freewill offerings expressing devotion to God and gratitude for His goodness and providence may have been the “first fruits” of livestock (Gen 4:4).

Five Types of Offerings: Give Thanks to God

■ Peace Offering

- ❖ **The third offering is the *shelem*, or Peace Offering. This category, first discussed in Leviticus 3, included Thanksgiving Offerings (Lev 7:12), Freewill Offerings (7:16), and Wave Offerings (7:30). The offering could be cattle (3:1), sheep (3:7), or a goat (3:12). It could be male or female, but must be without defect. If it was a Thanksgiving Offering, it could also include a variety of breads (7:12). The purpose of the Peace Offering was to consecrate a meal between two or more parties before God and share that meal together in fellowship of peace and a commitment to each others' future prosperity.**

Five Types of Offerings: Give Thanks to God

■ Sin Offering

- ❖ The fourth offering was called *chattath*, literally “sin” or “sin offering.” This offering is sometimes seen as an offering of atonement for unintentional sin (4:2-3, 4:20). It may be viewed as guilt offering, removing the consequences for lack of perfection (4:13-14, 4:22-23). As an atonement offering, it contained elements of a Burnt Offering (4:25), yet at the same time had elements of a Peace Offering (4:26). Conversely, some of the “sins” for which one needed atonement were not moral sins but rather matters of ritual impurity (5:1-5).

Five Types of Offerings: Give Thanks to God

■ Guilt Offering

- ❖ The fifth offering was the *asham*, traditionally translated "Guilt Offering." Unlike the English word "guilt" this does not refer to a matter of one's conscience but rather to something one owes on account of a "sin." Other suggestions for the name of this offering are the "Trespass Offering" or the "Reparation Offering." The purpose of this offering was to make reparations for one's sin. As such, this offering had a specific monetary value, and one who owed another on account of a debt due to a "sin" could repay it in silver rather than by sacrificing a ram (5:15). In addition, a 20% fee was assessed and given to the priest who mitigated the debt (5:16).

Spiritual Application: Give Thanks to God

- **The sacrificial system of the Old Testament was a means of grace by which the relationship between God and humanity begins to be restored.**
- **Hebrews 10:8-10** The sacrificial system was inadequate, as it pointed to Jesus Christ's sacrifice.
- **I Peter 2:1-5** While we live in light of Christ's sacrifice, we must offer our lives, as living and holy sacrifices (**Romans 12:1-2**).

Ingratitude / Ungrateful Is A Problem

■ II Timothy 3:1-5

- ❖ “Thanksgiving” – Hebrew / Greek means “heartfelt and cheerful acknowledgement of favors bestowed on us by others”
- ❖ “Thank” – English – same root word as “Think”
- ❖ Spiritually, “Thanking” involves “Thinking” about the good with God in our view.



Proud Countenance

- **Psalm 10:4** "The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts."

- ❖ **Seek God**

- ❖ **Think about God**



The Sacrifice of Praise

- **Psalm 107:22** "Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare His works with rejoicing"
- ❖ **II Corinthians 8:2** "Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare His works with rejoicing"
- ❖ **II Corinthians 9:12** "For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God"

The Sacrifice of Praise

- **Hebrews 13:15-16** “For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God. And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”

❖ **Psalm 103:1-5**

