

**Now more than ever:**  
**THE IMPORTANCE OF**  
**GRATITUDE!**

————— ❧ *Special Message: Thanksgiving 2020* ❧ —————

**Date:** November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

**Memory verse:** John 16:33 *Jesus: I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.*

————— ❧ *Reflection and Discussion Notes* ❧ —————

‡ Living in a time of loss

‡ In a world of uncertain solutions, the only true hope is not a matter of medicine, it is a matter of *faith*.

📖 John 16:33

📖 Psalm 118:5-6

‡ In Christ, we are renewed day by day, and we are able to live in courage, hope, and peace, as we receive and put into practice the great gift of GRATITUDE.

📖 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

📖 Philippians 4:4-7

† Why is gratitude so important to God? Because choosing to see through a lens of gratitude takes our eyes off OURSELVES.

- *Taking our eyes off of self* puts our own situation in PERSPECTIVE.
- *Taking our eyes off of self* helps us see the needs of OTHERS.
- *Taking our eyes off of self* is an ANTIDOTE to self-pity
- *Taking our eyes off of self* will move our heart to WORSHIP

† Reality! The miracle we see in scripture is that In Christ, gratitude is not just our response to positive things. It is a POSSESSION that cannot be taken from us, because it flows from an unquenchable source: the absolute truth of who God is, what is TRUE OF US because of who God is.

📖 Colossians 1:3-14

† Reality! It takes NO faith to be overwhelmed by our circumstances. It is by faith that God opens our eyes to see the power of His Truth in the midst of our circumstances.

📖 1 Corinthians 15:56-57

📖 Romans 6:17-18

📖 Hebrews 12:28-29

📖 Colossians 3:15-17