

The Freedom of Growth in Christ

The Secret Weapon of Spiritual Growth

Colossians 3:15-17

In each verse, Paul connects the three spiritual actions with the same spiritual attitude of your heart. What is that heart attitude?

Being thankful and **giving** thanks to God.

Thankfulness is an attitude of your heart toward God which needs to be refreshed and revitalized every day.

Colossians 2:6-7

What can we do to live more consistently in an overflow of gratitude in our walk with Christ?

We are to walk *in* Jesus and walk *like* Jesus.

“The one who says he abides in [Jesus] ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.” (1 John 2:6)

A life overflowing with thankfulness is a life patterned after Jesus.

What does ungratefulness or thanklessness foster in your life? What does it look and sound like when we are not living with grateful hearts in our walk with Jesus?

Thanklessness | Ingratitude | Ungratefulness

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apathy

unbelief

moodiness

anger

unkindness

irritability

rebellion

lack of concern

lack of commitment

discontentment

6 WAYS
THANKFULNESS
HELPS US BECOME MORE LIKE JESUS

Adapted from Thankfulness: Even When It Hurts by Susan Lutz.

1. Thankfulness keeps you in an attitude of worship and ceaseless prayer.
2. Thankfulness helps you see life through God's eyes.

You need to allow your heart to be thankful so that you can remember that you are not defined by your failures, sins, weaknesses, or even your enemies. God will always have the strongest and last word about your life.

1. Thankfulness keeps you in an attitude of worship and ceaseless prayer.
2. Thankfulness helps you see life through God's eyes.
3. Thankfulness helps you overcome Satan's schemes against your heart trusting Jesus.
4. Thankfulness helps you keep your heart fixed on God's promises to you as His child.

Thankfulness helps us make meaning in the moment based on God's faithfulness.

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4. Thankfulness helps you keep your heart fixed on God's promises to you as His child.
5. Thankfulness to God helps you see yourself through the eyes of the Lord.

The peace of God, the Word of God, and the will of God in Christ all working in your heart regardless of your circumstances—that's a powerful motivator for being thankful.

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3. Thankfulness helps you overcome Satan's schemes against your heart trusting Jesus.
4. Thankfulness helps you keep your heart fixed on God's promises to you as His child.
5. Thankfulness to God helps you see yourself through the eyes of the Lord.
6. Thankfulness is contagious; it increases your influence for Christ in others, and it helps define and shape your relationships as you live by faith in God's goodness to you.

One reason we respond in anger and are demanding, impatient, irritable, fearful, and easily hurt by others is that we are responding to them instead of responding to God *first*. We should respond to Him in our hearts before we respond to someone else.

Thankfulness keeps your heart primed to Christ and His will for your life and relationships.

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