

THANKSGIVING: FROM POLITE TO POWERFUL

THANKSGIVING

A. History

1. The first Thanksgiving 1621 between pilgrims and Wampanoag people
2. George Washington's proclamation in 1789
3. Abraham Lincoln in 1863 during the height of the Civil War

B. From add-on to lifestyle

1. Typically, a response to what God has done
2. Moving to a more consistent expression to God (*Ephesians 5:20 NKJV*)

PAUL GIVING THANKS IN A STORM

A. Paul given a promise in a dark time (*Acts 27:21-26 NKJV*)

1. Death seemed certain, so the angel was an answer to prayer
2. Paul was conscious of his relationship with God
3. Paul believed what God had promised

B. Paul gave thanks in the middle of the storm (*Acts 27:33-36 NKJV*)

1. Paul encouraged others with his faith
2. He gave thanks to God
3. God kept His word, and all of the ship made it safely to land

THANKSGIVING: A POWERFUL LIFESTYLE

A. Must be intentionally developed

1. Easy to respond after an escape
2. To give thanks in everyday life we have to push past resistance (*Psalms 116:17 NKJV*)

B. Is a powerful counter to negative dark thoughts

1. When thoughts go dark
2. Giving thanks to God is stepping into the light (*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NKJV*)

C. Is an expression of our faith in God

1. Acknowledging what God has done
2. Acknowledging God's help before we see an answer (*Philippians 4:6 NKJV*)