

Connected With One Another

With Thanksgiving

I. Message

a. Pray with thanksgiving

- i. Colossians 4:2 “**Continue in prayer**, and watch in the same **with thanksgiving;**”
- ii. Philippians 4:6 “Be careful for nothing; but **in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving** let your requests be made known unto God.”
- iii. What does it mean to pray with “thanksgiving”?
- iv. Jesus gives us an example when He fed the 4,000 in Mark 8:
 1. Mark 8:6 “And he commanded the people to sit down on the ground: and he took the seven loaves, and gave thanks, and brake, and gave to his disciples to set before them; and they did set them before the people.”
 2. Jesus’ example gives us some lessons for prayer:
 - a. **#1 – START with giving thanks**
 - b. **#2 – Be grateful for the answer NO MATTER WHAT**
 - i. Luke 22:19 “And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.”
 - ii. What a great example for us as we seek to pray with thanksgiving:

b. Worship with thanksgiving

- i. Worship: showing reverence for God
- ii. Psalm 100:4 “Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.”
 1. **BEGIN with an attitude of thanks**
 - a. Start here
 - b. Psalm 95:2 “Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.”
 2. **Be praising God as you come** (enter His courts with praise)

- a. Don't wait for someone to help you work up praise
- b. Hebrews 13:15 "By [Jesus] therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God **continually**, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.:
- c. Come into His presence with this attitude

c. Grow in your faith with thanksgiving

- i. Colossians 2:6-7 "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: 7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving."
- ii. Some of us did this last Sunday night at Pie and Praise
- iii. In the context of spiritual growth, we are to abound in thanksgiving
- iv. Notice a few things in this verse particularly:
 - 1. Thankful for our salvation
 - 2. Thankful for our developing Christ-likeness
 - 3. Thankful for your church where you are being rooted, built up and established in your faith

d. Eat with thanksgiving

- i. Most of us are in the habit of praying before meals
 - 1. Why is that such a good practice?
 - 2. Well, we are commanded to eat with thanksgiving!
- ii. 1 Timothy 4:1-5 "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; 3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. 4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:"
- iii. Notice the context
 - 1. People in the latter times departing from the faith (that should not surprise us)
 - 2. But what does it look like?
 - a. Allowing Satan to influence their thinking

- b. Forbidding other believers to enjoy God's blessings
- 3. Why is this last one such a big deal?
 - a. How did this make it into this list of terrible things people who have "departed from the faith" do?
 - i. God made food to be received by believers with thanksgiving
 - ii. Refusing food or being ungrateful for food is offensive to God
 - b. This is why we must give thanks when eating!

e. Conclusion

- i. Have you noticed something about this list?
- ii. We see it here every Sunday morning!
 - 1. Pretty much a summary of our Sunday mornings together
 - 2. This is also a summary of a healthy Christian on any given morning
 - a. Considering a fresh start (resolution) in 2026?
 - b. How about starting each day of 2026 by doing these 4 things with thanksgiving?