

Thankfulness is a Positive Practice

- The most common word for thanks, 55 times, is from the root *eucharist*, used as a noun, verb, or adjective: to give thanks, to thank, or to be thankful.
- Grace (*charis*) and thanks (*eucharis*) appear to have something in common. However, the parts of a word may or may not contribute to a definition (example, funeral begins with fun).
 - The prefix, *eu*, generally stands for good or well done.
 - So, if indeed the parts of the word indicate its meaning, thanks may be seen as a response to “grace done well.”
 - Grace, or, more exactly, the collection of character traits that make up a gracious nature includes patience, kindness, gentleness, compassion, forgiveness, and mercy. These traits moderate the potentially strict characteristic of justice.
 - In each occurrence of *eucharis*, the graciousness of God is in the context, so the connection of “thank” and “grace” is justified.
- In the Old Testament, thanks came from *eulogia*, “the Word done well.” So, thanks to God seemed more for the concepts and philosophy of God than the grace of God.
- Examples of thanks:
 - 1 Corinthians 1:4 I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 1:15 – 16, Philippians 1:3, Colossians 1:3, 1 Thessalonians 1:2, 2:13, 2 Thessalonians 1:3, 2:13, Philemon 4)
 - 2 Corinthians 1:11 ...you also helping in prayer for us, that thanks may be given by many persons on your behalf for the gift granted to us through many
 - 2 Corinthians 4:15 For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.
 - 2 Corinthians 9:11 – 12 ...you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.
 - Ephesians 5:4 ...but rather the giving of thanks
 - Ephesians 5:20 ...giving thanks always for all things to God
 - Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.
 - Colossians 1:12 ...giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers...
 - Colossians 2:7 ...rooted and built up in Him...abounding with thanksgiving.
 - Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of God rule in your hearts...and be thankful
 - Colossians 3:17 ...do all in the name of the Lord, giving thanks
 - Colossians 4:2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:18 ...in everything give thanks
 - 1 Timothy 2:1 I exhort...that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men
- Summary
 - Thanks is an essential part of prayer to relieve stress and handle governments.
 - Thanks (and joy) should be the result of seeing the successes of faith.