



THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD

MAY 7, 2017

Living Faith Chapel, Calgary (Solution Center)

WORD FOR THE WEEK

THE POWER OF CONTENTMENT AND THANKSGIVING

It is another day of thanksgiving and a brand new month! The cold and bitter season of winter is over and now it is the season of sunshine, warm weather and budding vegetation! When we look back to those cold and difficult days and compare them to what we now have, you begin to wonder why the winter could not suppress the spring season on a permanent basis; you begin to wonder why seasons keep changing from time to time. The only answer to this great wonder is to praise the name of the Almighty God for not allowing our darkness to last forever or for our cold to be permanent. Above all, glorify Him for His loving kindness towards you and our loved ones and towards our church.

It is not always easy to give thanks, but this is the very thing we must do in order to see God's will accomplished in our lives. This is how we move into higher realms of faith for ourselves, for our church, for the city, and for our nation.

Thanksgiving has great power to bring joy and break the power of the enemy. Whenever you give thanks to God, despite the most difficult circumstances, the enemy loses a big battle in your life. When you give thanks in the midst of difficulty, you bring pleasure to God's heart. He is looking for Christians who live in a realm of praise and thanksgiving where the enemy no longer has an ability to hold or manipulate that person. Satan is defeated when we have a thankful heart because thankfulness during difficulty is a sacrifice pleasing to God. Are you thankful? Are you thankful for your present circumstances? Are you thankful for your salvation, your friendships, and your job? Thankfulness is a key to your life. It is the key that turns your situation around because it changes you, your outlook, and your attitude. There is power in a thankful heart.

Begin to thank God for all the blessings He has given you instead of dwelling on the negative things that are wrong in your life: how you have been unable to land that dream job or how you have been unable to practise your profession because you are in a foreign country and are yet to be integrated into the system here. Also look the other side to see how lucky you are to be where you are today. Think about the thousands that have attempted to cross over but perished in the Mediterranean Sea trying to reach Europe for a better life. We must learn to be content with whatever we have or going on around us. What we shouldn't forget is that discontent dries up the soul and the energy you have left in you. Elizabeth Elliott, a woman who lost her husband on the mission field and faced multitudes of hardships, said this about loving God's will and being content. ***"To love God is to love His will. It is to wait quietly for life to be measured by one who knows us through and through. It is to be content with His timing and His wise apportionment. It is to follow in the steps of the Master, as did Paul, who was able to say that he had learned contentment no matter what the circumstances. His circumstances when he wrote that? Prison. No easy lesson, but great gain which is the sum of godliness plus contentment (I Timothy 6:6)." David said in Psalm 116:17, "I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord."*** Let each of us seek to have an attitude of gratitude and thanksgiving, rising to a new level of holiness in our lives. Here are 3 ways to practice an attitude of thankfulness in everyday life: (a) **Thank and praise God for everything in your life - "Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise - the fruit of lips that confess his name" (Hebrews 13:15);** (b) Don't allow yourself to complain about anything; and (c) Do not compare yourself with others.

As we meditate upon these words, may the Almighty grant us the grace to express contentment and to continually bear a heart of thanksgiving towards Him!

NOTE: If you have been blessed by our Word for the Week or inspired in any way by them, please let us know by sending an email to The Pastor at pastor@rccglfc.org