

S W E O V R E D N S

Part 1: Thanks

September 22 & 23, 2018

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This entire series is summed up in one sentence:

Use your words.

The power of words:

The tongue has the power of life and death... – Proverbs 18:21a

The first of our seven words is thanks

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Gratitude is not a one-time thank you

How can I embody the powerful word thanks?

Use the word with God and people

The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God! – Psalm 50:23 (ESV)

Be grateful with godly perspective for today

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.
Let Israel say: "His love endures forever." – Psalm 118:1-2

A moment of irony:

The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, "If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!" – Numbers 11:4-6

The Lord heard you when you wailed, "If only we had meat to eat! We were better off in Egypt!" Now the Lord will give you meat, and you will eat it. You will not eat it for just one day, or two days, or five, ten or twenty days, but for a whole month—until it comes out of your nostrils and you loathe it—because you have rejected the Lord... – Numbers 11:18-20

This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.
– Psalm 118:24

Be the one to come back

One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well." – Luke 17:15-19

Start by giving thanks for Jesus

Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

– Romans 7:25

Next Steps

Thanks is a simple word that has the power to lift another person's spirit — and the power to adjust your own outlook on life. Make it a priority this week say thanks in all circumstances. That could include thanking:

- People who serve you in some way
- Those who offer you wisdom or advice
- Those who correct, admonish, or challenge you toward growth
- God, for every good thing he has given
- Jesus, for laying down his life to save yours
- The Holy Spirit, for his presence in every difficult circumstance

Small Group Questions:

- 1) What is your favorite word? Why?
- 2) Read Psalm 118. What can you give thanks to the Lord for right now?
- 3) Read Luke 17:11-19. What do you think kept the other nine from coming back? What spiritual lesson can you learn from this real-life account?
- 4) Have you ever been affected by a personal thank you? Why did someone else's gratitude affect you so deeply?
- 5) Thanking God for trials is a sign of spiritual maturity. Have you experienced a trial that you can thank him for today?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?