

Prestonwood Connection

Living In The Shadow Of The Almighty #13

Gratitude

Psalm 100

Wednesday, November 19, 2003 • Dr. David McKinley
(Service held in youth area)

[Dr. McKinley, message *Gratitude In The Shadow Of The Almighty*]

It is great to see you tonight and to be together and a..., to have the opportunity of closing out something that we've started on the 20th of August a..., tonight here in this wonderful student building and to a..., am I on? [pause] Let me try that again. I knew that seemed like it was a little harder than it should have been and [congregation laughter] I was makin all these mental frequency adjustments trying to be sure that a..., a..., I wasn't a..., raising my voice if I was on, but I wanted you to be able to hear me. So a..., I just said that a..., it's great to be here tonight closing something we started on August the 20th together as we convened again for our connection service this fall it has just been a wonderful gathering together each and every week, so many wonderful testimonies of the things that God has been doing in the lives of people within our ministry and beyond our ministry because of our ability to share and to pray and to seek the Lord and I just wanna thank you so much for being here and being a part of all of this and sharing this with us. As we were a..., singing that song, I was reminded of the fact that a..., early this morning I was going through a drive thru Starbucks up in Frisco and of course it was a cool morning and a lot of people had the same idea that this would be a good day to have a good hot cup of Starbucks coffee, but a..., as I was sitting in that line in that drive thru line, as I turned the corner to make my way down to the window to pick up my a..., special order a..., I was a..., looking just down that lane and on the far right side right down at the street, about like this little monitor is right here, just something that woulda been so easy to overlook or to miss, I noticed there was a little sign down there that just said, "Thank You!" Thank you, and as I looked at that sign I thought about the fact that those 2 words are such small and many times a..., insignificant words in the big scheme of things that happen and yet they are some of the most important words that are ever shared and that are ever said in any context of life. I found myself driving through that lane with that hot cup of vanilla latte, extra hot, one pack of equal whipped up fine, it was great and as I started out of there a..., I couldn't help but just think of how the power of those 2 little in words, make all the difference in my life, in your life and in each of our lives day in and day out when we hear those words and when we say those words, thank you. A..., I don't think it's possible for me to begin tonight without just saying thank you to this incredible

instrumental and vocal praise team lead by Rick Briscoe who have a..., [applause] ministered to us through this fall. [applause] And a..., I appreciate so much just their heart preparation and what that's allowed us to share together and thank you pastor for your love and your support and just the encouragement of this service and what it's been to see it grow and a..., thank you to each of you for being here and being a part and we will be back together on January the 7th, that's when we'll start again. And of course there's a lot of ministry between now and then with all that we have coming forth a..., in our Dallas Christmas Festival, special services through the holidays. It's going to be a wonderful, wonderful time and I am so very thankful for it and it's this subject of gratitude, this subject of thanksgiving that a..., I want to think about tonight. And if you have your Bible I want you to take it and open it to the 100th Psalm, the 100th Psalm.

I was in the 2nd grade attending Sea Isle Elementary School, a public school in Memphis, Tennessee when my second grade teacher, a lady by the name of Mrs. Enoch, had us learn Psalm 100 just before Thanksgiving that year. She was a Presbyterian and she was one good schoolteacher. The very fact that I can even remember her name and her class reminds me of that. Well, one of the things that Ms. Enoch's did in those days and of course you could do in those days, was to use familiar passages of Scripture that mark significant moments in American history, to bring the 2 together and not try to act as though they did not coexist or that they never complimented one another and to be able to share them and so I as a dutiful 2nd grader stood in front of Mrs. Enoch's class and said the words of this Psalm for the first time in my life I memorized it then and by the grace of God it's been in my mind and in my heart every since. Tonight I want us to take time to a..., read this 100th Psalm, a small package that carries a big message, a very important expression of faith for all of us who are here tonight who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. And so I'm gonna ask you if you would, to stand with me and I want us to make this our confession to the Lord together tonight. Let's say it:

¹May a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! ²Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. ³Know you that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. ⁴Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. ⁵For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.

Father, tonight, I pray that we would walk out of here with a greater sense of the wonder of Your goodness and grace made abundant through the work of Jesus Christ for us. And Father that we would indeed tonight embrace those two words, thank you, and that they would become more and more a part of our very character and nature in our walk with You and our relationships with each other and in the testimony of our faith. In Jesus name. Amen.

Would you be seated. 6 verses, put together, actually 5 and yet in that

little package of verses we find these wonderful truths and expression of what it means to have a grateful heart. I don't think you have to rehearse this portion of Scripture for long to realize that the repetitive theme in the passage is that of celebration, that of thanksgiving and of course tonight we have come that we might together be able to celebrate and have thankful hearts before the Lord. Yes, it's that season of the year when we all start thinking about it and the stuffing and all that goes with it. But the reality is, is that I'm not talking to you about a meal tonight, I'm talking to you about a lifestyle. I'm talking to you about something that is so much a part of the entire theme of the Bible and is always a part of the expression of true faith in those who believe on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. And so tonight what I want to do is, is I just want in a very simple fashion to walk through these 5 verses with you and I wanna suggest to you tonight **3 INGREDIENTS TO DEVELOPING A GRATEFUL HEART.** There are a lot of ingredients that will come together around the Thanksgiving table, special recipes, a..., wonderful dishes, desserts and all kinds of things that have become holiday traditions. And of course they're made because of the right ingredients. But just as that's true of the meal of Thanksgiving, it's important that in the heart of Thanksgiving, that the right ingredients are always brought together and mixed together and from these words tonight I want those ingredients to get into your heart. So what are they?

Well, the Psalm begins by saying:

¹Make a joyful shout to the...

What's the next word?

...LORD, all you lands! ²Serve the...

...LORD with gladness; And come before His presence with singing. ³Know that the...

...LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;...

In that very repetition of that common address and yet that all important title we understand that to have a grateful heart we must **RECOGNIZE GOD'S SOVEREIGN CARE** for each and every one of us. He is the Lord. He is in charge. He is in control. He sits on the throne, He rules, He reigns, our God is sovereign. The Psalm says in another place as we looked at earlier this year. The Lord has established His throne in the heavens and His sovereignty rules over all. Therefore all of my life is to be lived in total reverence and total recognition of this fact that God is sovereign and that I can look to Him and I can trust Him in all of the circumstances, all of the cares all of the concerns in my life. Certainly this is what caused the Pilgrims, who came here and landed at Plymouth Rock to celebrate that first Thanksgiving, was that they were honoring the providence of God. The sovereign work and the sovereign care of God in their lives. They were acknowledging the fact that all that they had and all that they needed He had provided and supplied. It did not mean that

they didn't face hardships and difficulties, uncertainties and even tragedies. But in the midst of all of these things our Pilgrim forefathers looked at all of this and said, God rules, God Reigns and God is worthy of our worship and of our praise. Therefore, every day of life needs to be an experience whereby you and I begin that day and throughout that day recognizing God's sovereign care for us. I love the way that The Message reads in verse 1, it says this:

On your feet now, applaud God...

Isn't that great?

Come to attention, it's time for you to give God recognition, He is worthy of honor, of respect, of affection and of appreciation.

And therefore we are told to come to our feet, to come to attention and to give God glory and therefore whenever we live life in a day, in a week, in a month, in a year, giving honor to the Lord and worshiping the Lord; what we are doing is that we are giving God applause as His created beings, because of His sovereign care in our lives. That's what worship really is. J. I. Packer has defined worship in this way, he said:

"It is the essence of ~~deliberate~~...of deliberately lifting one's eyes from man and his mistakes to contemplate God and His glory."

And I'm telling you right now if you are ever gonna have a grateful heart it's never gonna come because you focus on men and their mistakes. Frankly, if you look at just humankind, mankind, this world, this system, the wealth, the goods, the bads, the ups, the downs and ultimately the faults and the failures, life is gonna be desperate, it's gonna be tragic, even depressing. But on the other hand if you learn in life to contemplate God and His glory then it is in the very contemplation knowing that the Lord, He is God and recognizing God and giving Him glory, that you begin to develop a grateful heart. I'm to live day by day declaring and depending upon His work in my life. Therefore every morning when I begin, every day when I awaken, it's important for me as it is for you, today and every day to acknowledge...well, what does it say here? It says:

Know that the LORD, He is God;...

That's recognizing His sovereign care and His sovereign control.

...the LORD, He is God;...

Therefore He is the authority over all of my affairs. There's not anything I'm going to face today, there's not any issue that I'm going to address today, there's not any power, any force, any opposition that I will find that is greater than His authority and therefore today and every day I acknowledge God's sovereign care, His authority over my affairs.

...the LORD, He is God;...

I also acknowledge today what it says in the second part of the verse and that is:

...It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;...

That is I have a purpose in His plan. He made me. It's not that I'm just here to self generate and to self a..., promote and to self a..., accomplish; it's that I am here to ultimately fulfill God's purpose in my life and indeed as Rick Warren has said:

"...to live a purpose driven life."

And therefore today and every day I'm to acknowledge my purpose in His plan. It's not just my plans, my life, my things, it's my purpose in His plan.

Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;...

Then listen to this:

...We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

His care is for every circumstance, just as a shepherd cares for the sheep of the pasture. There is not a circumstance of your life or of my life that God does not extend His care. He sees, He knows, He cares and that great confidence, that trilogy of affirmation given to us over and over in the Scripture ultimately brings us to the place that we can see His care in every circumstance and therefore the secret to beginning to live a life with a grateful heart, the first ingredient is simply recognizing God's sovereign care in my life. Is it any wonder in the New Testament that Paul in the book of Romans said:

But we know that all things work together for good to those who love God and to those who are called according to His purpose.

I am so grateful that I do not live by fate, I live by faith in the God who rules and the God who controls and in the God who oversees and that is what gives me confidence, it gives me peace, but it also makes me grateful. Recognize God's sovereign care for you. That's the first ingredient of a grateful heart.

There's something else though that we have to have if we're gonna have grateful hearts and that's not only to recognize God's sovereign care; but we must **REHEARSE GOD'S GRACIOUS WORK IN US**. Rehearse God's gracious work in you. You know what it means to rehearse don't you? Well, tonight you probably saw a number of people making their way into this building, some of them with several different a..., portions of clothing, many of them dressed in workout type suits and, and a..., all those kinds of things coming together to be a part of a great big rehearsal for the Dallas

Christmas Festival. To rehearse it, is to go over it, to go through it, to continue to think of it and to move through it again and again because we know that ultimately as they rehearse and prepar...prepare they will ultimately be ready to present. And so it is with you and me, that we are to constantly be engaged in a rehearsal of sorts. It is the rehearsal of God's work for us. The total recall of my life is to remember what God has done for me and not to let anything eclipse, or anything obstruct my vision, my remembrance, my understanding of who God is and what God has done for me. He is so good. Now our English word thank, comes from the same root as the word think, thank and think, and I think that's significant, because if you're ever gonna be thankful it's going to be because you've been thankful. Heh. You've gotta start with thinking about those things in life that are...been given to you, those privileges, those opportunities, those blessings, those relationship, but most of all a Savior Jesus Christ and when you think on Him and when you think on the things that He has done for you then the result of that is to develop a thankful heart. I love again The Message and what Eugene Peterson said about Psalm 100 and verse 4. You know where it says:

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,...

He simply says:

Enter with the ~~pass~~...password, thank you...

That's the password into the very court of God and therefore the rehearsal of my life is day in and day out entering into His gates with thanksgiving, entering into His courts with praise, being thankful to Him and blessing His name. Now why is this so important? Well, it's important because of the fact that we live in a world and we personally struggle with a whole arena of thank-busters, thank-busters, things that keep us from being thankful. And I wanna be sure that I take just a few minutes tonight and sorta remind you of some of the thank-busters that you deal with and that I deal with in life that keep us from living in this a..., condition of entering His gates with thanksgiving and being thankful to Him and blessing His name. What is it that is a thank-buster in my life?

Well, one of the biggest is an attitude of **PRIDE**, pride. The Bible says in Proverbs 16:19: **[should be verse 18]**

Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before the fall.

And pride is one of the greatest obstructions to gratitude in life. When I am proud, I am ungrateful, arrogant, strutting my stuff, thinking about myself, self indulged, self absorbed and that's where so many people live in the world, feeling that they deserve what they've got and they deserve a lot more. Heh. And whenever that begins to be the mentality of your life then you are ultimately not going to be a grateful person, instead you're gonna be a frightened person. Because there's only one thing that happens in the heart of the proud and that is the fear that somebody else will take their preeminence. And so therefore we have to deal with the spirit

of pride and what pride does inside of us. Heh. I love the words of Dante Gabriel Rossetti that said:

"The atheist's most embarrassing moment is when he feels proudly thankful for something but can't think of anybody to thank for it."

Heh. [pause for congregation laughter] It must be tough to be an atheist and celebrate Thanksgiving, because there's nothing more self-assertive and proud than to say, I'm an atheist. Atheist means, no God. No one can say there is no God. You can say I don't believe there is a God, that's an agnostic, but you can't say, no God, because you can't prove it. But you see the evidence is there to prove the reality of God and our pride is what gets in our way so many times and our self absorption that is a thank-buster in life.

And there is the spirit of **PETTINESS**, the spirit of pettiness. I guess if there's anything that destroys Christian fellowship, true and authentic Christian fellowship and really destroys worship and therefore the spirit of thanksgiving and celebration in so many church families, it is the spirit of pettiness. George Will has said:

"Pettiness is the tendency of people without large purposes."

And if you're a person who just constantly lookin at the little things and constantly picking apart and constantly tearing down; I'm telling you I've met people in my life and my ministry, that the only time that they ever address me is either to criticize, to complain or to correct. That's it, criticize, complain and correct. And there's some people who just have that spirit, that spirit of pettiness and they believe that they're God's anointed and God's appointed to manifest their gift of complaint, criticism and correction to everyone who is in their sphere of concern. Sorta like Lucy in the old Peanut's comic strip. You know Lucy she's so bossy and one day there's this little strip where Snoopy is out on a frozen pond and he's out there and old Snoop, he's just, he's just goin for it, he's just havin the time of his life. He's spinning and swirling and he's just having a great time and there's Lucy over on the side. *"Snoopy, Snoopy, you're not skating, you're just sliding. You have to have skates on to skate."* He's out there, he's goin. *"Snoopy, Snoopy, you're not skating, you're just sliding."* Finally in the last frame, old Snoopy's sittin along the side, his ears are all down and he said, *"I just thought I was havin fun."* Heh. [pause for slight congregation laughter] That's pettiness, just someone who begins to look for fault in everything and one of the greatest thank-busters, one of the reasons that so many people are not ~~enter~~...entering into His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise, they're not being thankful to Him and blessing His name is because they have absolutely become slaves to a spirit of pettiness in life.

And then a mindset of **PITY**. You know what pity is don't you? It's just downplaying God's goodness to you. It's just seeing the worst about you. It's kinda the Eorr syndrom of Winnie The Pooh, *"Thanks for noticing me."* Yeah. You know, poor me, nobody ever thinks about me. You know, Pity,

petty's when you're after everyone and every thing else about the little things, but pity is when you're just absorbed about you and not having the recognition and not having the a..., award and not having the acclaim and not having the privileges and not having all the other things. You see you're value of you is down and literally the one thing that a person of pity does over and over is just says, "Whoa is me!"

And then there the forgetfulness of **PRIVILEGE**. An other thank-buster is the forgetfulness to be forgetful of my privileges in life. On Monday I a..., had made a trip out of our area and was flying back in Monday evening. I might add that I spent 4 and a half hours in an airport in another city tryin to get back here that evening because of the storms that were coming through. And a..., I think I experienced, possibly, the a..., what should I say the most rigorous flight home that I've experienced in my life a..., somewhere between a..., Memphis, Tennessee where I was and Dallas, Texas, somewhere over Arkansas, a..., we met up with that storm that came through here in the evening and all I can say to you is that it, it felt more like we were on a ship, you know about to...well I felt like I was on the Minnow you know with a..., the Skipper and Gilligan, you know out there fighting, I mean it was just...literally felt that way on this plane. But you know just before we got to Dallas, it's so amazing we, we broke through a series of clouds in the darkness and there were the glow of the lights of Dallas, which as you know we glow for a lot of miles around here. We got a lot of TXU happenen a..., on the ground here and all the other companies a..., just so I'm politically correct. [slight congregation laughter] And so we got a lot of that stuff happening but as somewhere between the break in those clouds and the glow of the city I looked out of the window of the plane and I saw the most incredible canopy of stars I have seen in months and I just...I found myself, you know, coming out of the storm just, just twisting my neck and looking out that window and just trying to see how many of the shapes and formations, because the stars were so bright and so dense. And you know the reality is we just take the stars for granted don't we? You know, is everybody in this room knew that there was only one night every year when the stars would come out we'd have star parties everywhere. Did you know that? We'd all be goin out to the darkest places we could find and we'd be packin it up and we'd have tailgate parties and we'd be out there for star night and star bright and we'd have all kinds of star stuff goin on. But because the stars are overhead every night and have been every day since we've ever lived. If it's cloudy we don't really worry about it, it there are lights that block it we don't really think about it because we just take the stars for granted. And yet the other night I was thinking about the wonder of God and creation and yet how few times do I pause to think of the wonder of God in the activities of my life day in and day out, just counting the points, the lights in the darkness, the lights that continue to shine as the reflection of His goodness and how many times do I fail to remember my privileges, God's blessings in my life?

And then the last thing is a loss of perspective. A loss of **PERSPECTIVE** a..., so many of us just quit giving thanks because we just have kinda lost perspective of what it is to be thankful. We live in such a material

affluent world and culture and we're just so accustomed to having things our privileges, but...but in the process of that we no longer have the perspective that we once had. Most of us in this room are living in houses bigger than we ever thought we would, driving cars nicer than we ever thought we could, wearing finer cloths than we ever dreamed we'd buy and yet none of that really seems like all that much now does it? Because there's always somebody out there ahead of you and you lose perspective. You see all of these things are thank-busters in life. The attitude of pride, the spirit of pettiness, the mindset of pity, forgetful of privilege, lose of perspective and it happens to everyone of us everyday and when it does we lose that heart of gratitude. We have a missing ingredient and the missing ingredient is that we have come to the place in life that we no longer rehearse God's gracious work to us. You've gotta rehearse it.

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise and be thankful to Him and bless His name.

And over and over and over in life, rehearse the grace and the goodness of God.

There's a third and a final thing that I want you to see tonight and that is not only to, as though it were, begin by recognizing God's sovereign care in our lives and rehearsing God's gracious work in our lives, but a part of having a grateful heart is **RESTING IN GOD'S TRUSTWORTHY CHARACTER TOWARD YOU**. It's kind of a mouthful, but, but let me just kinda break that down. Resting in God's trustworthy character toward you. Thus far we've talked about kinda looking up and understanding who God is and we've talked about looking around and seeing the things that God has done for us. But ultimately as I look at life as it's coming to me pretty fast in the windshield right now, it's very important for me to let my eyes in the future be focused on how trustworthy God's character really is. This Psalm ends with a theological statement, with a statement that affirms faith and that describes the very nature and character of God. Let's read verse 5 out loud together:

For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.

He is good, His mercy is everlasting, He truth endures to all generations. It's a statement with 3 parts describing, as though it were, who God is and what God is like and giving us great security in life and we got these weird new fangled kinda stools up here, I never am sure if I oughta sit on one of these things or now. They're kinda weird lookin and this ones tangled up, no it's not. But you know, a more traditional stool doesn't have all these little curvy lines on it, you know? A more traditional stool just has 3 legs and those 3 legs are important, do I have my stool? You got it up there guys? [pause] There it is, I thought I had a 3 legged stool up there some where. A more tradition ~~school~~...stool has got 3 legs and for many years this was the most common type of a stool that you would ever see. The reality is, is that a stool cannot stand on just one leg,

nor can it stand on 2, but when it has that 3rd leg it is perfectly balanced, strong and secure, able to uphold, able to provide a place to rest. And tonight I want you to realize that the place you rest and the place that I rest in life looking at the future is in the character of God and what does the Bible tells us?

For the LORD is good;...

The **GOODNESS OF GOD**, that's the first leg of the stool of my life. That's the first leg of my confidence. I love Psalm 84 and verse 11 it says:

For the LORD God is a sun and a shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly.

Whatever kind of badness may hit the windshield of your life there is a God whose very character is goodness and you never need to fear the bad, the evil, the difficult because God is for you and God is good. God is good all the time! Well let's say it church.

All the time God is good!

Right? And so tonight we celebrate God's goodness and just as I can look back and see the goodness of God in my life, I can look ahead and there is one thing that I can be absolutely confident about tonight and that is, that God is good and nothing's gonna change that.

There's a second thing that he tells us:

For the LORD is good; and His mercy is everlasting,

Some translations say:

...His steadfast love...

Some say:

...His loving kindness...

But over and over what the Bible is talking about here is that love that endures, that mercy, that, that, that a..., affection and that care that God extends to us and so I'm just calling it the **STEADFAST LOVE OF GOD**. And the wonder of it all is not only as I look at life in the future, as it comes to the windshield to me, I look at God's goodness, but then I look at His steadfast love. And what that tells me is there will never be a time, there will never be a place, there will never be a circumstance in my life where the mercy of God cannot deliver me. I don't know what kind of mess you may be in, in your life right now. Now I know we're all spiffed up lookin good here at church, got our Bibles, notes, all that stuff, we're all...but you know, I know that the reality of life is a lot of us have got some messes goin on in our lives right now, you know? And that's just normal. To be a human is to be at times involved in a mess.

Now sometimes that mess is of our own doings, it's the consequences of things that we've done. Sometimes it's a mess of other people's doings, but the bottom line is we live havin to deal with a lot of messes and this world is a messy place to live. But I want you to hear me tonight, there will never be a mess in your life that God will not deliver you out of.

I was reading about a pastor who a..., grew up on a farm up in the northern a..., states, up somewhere like Wisconsin where it got a lot of snow and he told a story that a..., in the midst of these snow storms his dad following a snow storm would always have a practice of going out on the farm, goin to the barn and getting out this really large tractor that they had and he would always go down the road and try to find motorists who had been stranded in the snow so that he could go find a place, hook up that tractor and just pull em out. He said, it never failed, whenever we had a storm or whenever we had a heavy snow my dad would always go find the cars and he's just pull em out. Well, that's what the love of God is like in life. He's always willing to let His tow truck pull you out of the ditch that you find yourself in. Not to affirm you in sin. Hear me clearly, our God is a holy God, but there is a sense of goodness and mercy in God's love that will always find you where you are and deliver you out of that mess. And so you can rest in His trustworthy character, the goodness of God, the steadfast love of God. But then look at the last thing it says:

...And His truth endures to all generations.

What is that, God's truth enduring to all generations? Well, that's the **FAITHFULNESS OF GOD**. God is faithful, He will never be unfaithful. He very nature, His very character is faithful. He was faithful to our forefathers. He was faithful to our grandfathers. He is faith to us. He will be faithful to our children. He will be faithful to our grandchildren. He will be faithful to our great chil...grandchildren should we wait until Jesus comes again, because God is faithful and it is in the very faithfulness of God that His love and His care, His steadiness will always be seen in my life. And so no matter how turbulent, no matter how uncertain, no matter how confused at times I may be about what I face in the windshield of the future, the reality is, is that I can sit and rest on the faithfulness of God who will never fail me. And when I think about His goodness and when I think about His steadfast love and when I think about the faithfulness of this God then that brings me to a place of total return in life, where all of my life is to be lived to return one thing to Him, a heart of appreciation and of thanksgiving to Him. That's why the Bible tells us in the New Testament, Colossians chapter 3 in verse 17:

And whatever things you do in word or in deed, do all...

Literally, the total return of your life, do everything that you do:

...in the name of the Lord Jesus,...

Say the next 2 words with me:

...giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

It's all about living a life that says thank you.

A number of years ago the President of Princeton University was asked about living a good life and what it meant and why would a Christian want to live a good life and he simply said:

"Once a person experiences the magnitude of God's grace then the issue of their life just becomes a P.S. that just says, all of my life will be lived to say, thank You to God."

That's the ingredient of a grateful heart, recognizing His sovereign care, rehearsing His gracious and His good will toward us and then finally resting in His trustworthy character so that all in life would be lived to the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. The most significant thing that can happen in your heart is to know Jesus Christ, because when you know Christ, you know the true and the living God, the God who created you and made you for Himself and it is in making that life connection with Jesus that you begin to discover how good God is, how faithful God is, how full of His love He is to you, because you see God, over 2000 years ago, sent His Son into this world to live and walk among us, to die on a cross for our sins, to face off with our greatest foe death, but 3 days later He walked out of the grave conquering the power of death. He ascended into heaven. He has prepared a place for us and whenever you embrace the gift of life that is made available in Christ, whenever you make that powerful life connection, whenever the relationship with God becomes real in Jesus Christ then everything changes around you and everything changes within you. And the greatest thing that God does to a human being is that He takes a selfish, arrogant, rebellious man or woman and makes them a grateful follower of Jesus Christ.