

# MEMBER CARE NEWSLETTER

THE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH | Fall 2023



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## The Power of Giving Thanks

In the last couple of newsletters, I wrote about “The Power of Two” and “The Power of Many” to encourage you to pray with others. Today, I want to discuss “The Power of Giving Thanks”.

As a Nation, we are about to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. What is the purpose of this holiday? It is to give thanks to God for His blessings. It is a time to celebrate God’s goodness with each other. As you gather with your family and friends during Thanksgiving, I want to encourage you to focus on giving thanks to God.

*“Give thanks to the Lord. For His loving-kindness lasts forever.”*

The scripture says in 2 Timothy 3:1-2, “You must understand that in the last days there will come times of much trouble. People will love themselves and money. They will have pride and tell of all the things they have done. They will speak against God. Children and young people will not obey their parents. **People will not be thankful and they will not be holy.**”

Our society becoming unthankful and unholy points to evidence that we are in the last days. As followers of Jesus Christ, we must be holy, set apart to God, and be a thankful people. Giving thanks or always being thankful should be the second thing identifying us as followers of Jesus. The first, of course, is our love for one another.

Expressing thanks for something good in a situation that warrants complaining, anxiety, fear, or frustration can improve the atmosphere. The Bible states that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God. Giving thanks to God is a beautiful weapon that helps shift our focus

to God rather than the problem. Daily use of this weapon is vital in these last days.

The story in 2 Chronicles 20 highlights a situation where Judah found herself in battle. Fear and anxiety could have paralyzed King Jehoshaphat, but he and the people of Judah came together to seek the Lord by fasting and praying. The battle plan to fight the enemy was to express thanks to God.

They gave thanks by assembling the choir before the army, singing, “Give thanks to the Lord. For His loving-kindness lasts forever.” By singing, praising, and thanking God, the enemies of Judah were defeated.

If you are tired, give thanks to the Lord because the joy of the Lord is your strength. If you are sick, thank the Lord because He is your healer. If you are afraid, give thanks because God has not given you the spirit of fear. If you are depressed, give thanks because God has given you the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. If you are lonely, thank God for being a friend closer than a brother; thank him for connecting you with other believers. If you are in need, thank God because He is your provider. If you are confused, thank God for clarity because God is not the author of confusion. Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah gave thanks before they saw the battle’s outcome.

Join us on Sunday, November 26, as we celebrate the Lord’s Supper and God’s goodness to our church family. “In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:18) We will thank Him for His goodness, mercy, favor, and power working in our lives, family, church, community, and nation.



### Upcoming Events:

- Lord’s Supper Service with Thanksgiving & Prayer, Sunday, November 26
- Christmas Program: *Joy to the World*, Friday, December 8 & Saturday, December 9
- 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting: January 8 - 28 (Connect by praying at the church Monday - Friday, 6:30 - 7:15am.)