Thanks for Giving

November 22, 2026

Pastor Tim Lambert



INTRO

From the pilgrims and early colonists onward, Thanksgiving was meant to be about giving God recognition and prayers with thanks for the many blessings he graciously has given us as a nation and individually.

I. THANKS FOR GIVING FORGIVENESS

Psalms 130:3-4 (TPT) Lord, if you measured us and marked us with our sins, who would ever have their prayers answered? But your forgiving love is what makes you so wonderful. No wonder you are so loved and worshiped!

Any condemnation or feelings of unworthiness can be extinguished in the acceptance of his forgiveness. Forgiveness is…

A. Available to all (personal)
B. Everlasting (never ends, no shelf life)
C. Transformative (offers newness in thought, word and deed)

Ephesians 4:31-32 (CEB) Put aside all bitterness, losing your temper, anger, shouting, and slander, along with every other evil. [32] Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to each other, in the same way God forgave you in Christ.

II. THANKS FOR GIVING FREEDOM

Galatians 5:1 (TPT) At last we have freedom, for Christ has set us free! We must always cherish this truth and firmly refuse to go back into the bondage of our past.

A. Freedom has a price

1 Corinthians 6:20 (AMP) You were bought with a price [you were actually purchased with the precious blood of Jesus and made His own]. So then, honor *and* glorify God with your body.

God's grace is always stronger than human sin. We go from forgiveness to family to freedom. We are reborn with a new identity, a new way to live and a new eternal future.

B. Freedom is a right

John 8:36 (NIRV) So if the Son of Man sets you free, you will really be free.

C. Freedom has responsibilities

Luke 9:23 (TLB) Then he said to all, "Anyone who wants to follow me must put aside his own desires and conveniences and carry his cross with him every day and *keep close to me!*

True disciples of Christ must submit to His authority in their lives. This involves daily decision making.

Psalm 33:11-12 (MSG) GOD's plan for the world stands up, all his designs are made to last. Blessed is the country with GOD for God; blessed are the people he's put in his will.

"Every single one of us as Americans need to remember that freedom did not come free, as we get on our knees tonight, thank God we live in a country where people are trying to break into, and not a country people are trying to break out of." – Mike Huckabee

III. THANKS FOR GIVING YOUR PRESENCE

Galatians 4:6 (NIRV) Because you are his children, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts. He is the Holy Spirit. By his power we call God *Abba*. Abba means Father.

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The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit bears witness that we are the children of God.

A. We are spirit beings

Proverbs 20:27 (NIRV) The spirit of a person is the lamp of the LORD. It lights up what is deep down inside them.

"The Bible without the Holy Spirit is a sundial by moonlight." — Dwight L. Moody

B. We need the power of God's presence in our daily lives

1 Corinthians 4:20 (NLT) For the Kingdom of God is not just a lot of talk; it is living by God's power.

How will we find comfort and counsel that exceeds man's knowledge and abilities without the Spirit's help?

IV. THANKS FOR GIVING PROMISES

2 Corinthians 1:20 (NIRV) God has made a great many promises. They are all "Yes" because of what Christ has done. So through Christ we say "Amen." We want God to receive glory.

A. Conditional Promises ("If then…But you…")

1. Requires willingness

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NKJV) If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

2. Requires obedience

Isaiah 1:19 (NIRV) But you have to be willing to change and obey me. If you are, you will eat the good things that grow on the land.

B. Unconditional Promises ("I will…It shall…")

1. Reveal's God's sovereignty

Genesis 8:22 (NKJV) "While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease."

2. Reveal's God's faithfulness

Genesis 9:13 (NIRV) I have put my rainbow in the clouds. It will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

V. THANKS FOR GIVING YOUR WORD

A. Logos (God's written word)

Psalm 33:4 (NLJV) For the word of the LORD *is* right, And all His work *is done* in truth.

B. Rhema (God's spoken word)

John 8:28-30 (NASB1995) So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that [a]I am *He*, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. 29 And He who sent Me is with Me; He [b]has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him." 30 As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him.