



BUILDING A KINGDOM CULTURE

Part 12

Building a Kingdom Culture

‘Becoming a **people** whose **beliefs** and **behaviours** are increasingly **aligned** with the **heart** of **God**...

Revealing heaven to each other and **to our world.**

*'Our Father who dwells in
Heaven, May Your holy
Name be honoured. Let Your
Kingdom come, let Your will
be done here in Elim Church
Aberystwyth as it is in
Heaven. Amen.'*

Kingdom Culture

- Kingdom
 - The domain of the King... doing things His way
- Culture
 - ‘the ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society’ (Oxford Dictionary)
 - ‘How we do things around here’

Building a Kingdom Culture

1. Kingdom Culture
2. A People who OBEY
3. A People who COMMIT
4. A People who ARE AUTHENTIC
5. A People who BREAK BREAD TOGETHER
6. A People who GIVE WORTHY SERVICE TO THEIR KING
7. A People who OFFER THEIR LIVES
8. A People who ARE COMMITTED
9. A People who WORSHIP TOGETHER
10. A People who BLESS
11. A People who TESTIFY TO THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS



A People Who... GIVE THANKS

Building a Kingdom Culture 12

2 Cor 9

11 You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. **12** For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. **13** By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, **14** while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. **15** Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

Dave Newton 'Wearing Thankfulness'

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Colossians 3:17 NIV)

- WHATEVER - not just when things are going well!
- We need to train our muscles to be thankful.

‘Thankfulness is the currency that enables you to trade your way through the whatevers that life brings our way and represent Jesus.’

Dave Newton 'Wearing Thankfulness'

- Encouraged us to be thankful and helped us understand the positive effect of being so.
- To build on this, let us consider...
 - Why we are thankful
 - What (and/or who) are we thankful for
 - How to exercise the muscles of thankfulness?

Kingdom People Give Thanks

- Scripture is full of people who are thankful and of instructions to be thankful
- Time and again David and the Psalmist tells us to GIVE THANKS

Ps 30:4, Ps 33:2, Ps 95:2, Ps 97:12, Ps 100:4, Ps 106:1, Ps 107:1, Ps 118:1

**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.**

**Give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures forever.**

**Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures forever. (Psalm 136:1-3)**

Kingdom People Give Thanks

- Time and again Paul and the NT writers instructs his reader to GIVE THANKS or BE THANKFUL
 - 1Cor 16:34, 1Thess 5:18, Col 3:15, Col 3:17, Col 4:2, Phil 4:6, Heb 12:28

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but **understand what the will of the Lord** is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, **giving thanks always** and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. (Eph 5:15-21)

Thankfulness and the Will of God

- Part of Kingdom living, of 'doing things His way' is **GIVING THANKS**

'Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.' (1Thess 5:18)

- Being thankful and the plan and purpose of God are tied together
- Thankfulness should be evident in the way we live our lives every day and in every situation

Thankfulness is Good for You!

- You can't be GIVE THANKS and stay down in the dumps
- It is true that there is plenty for all of us to be depressed and down about
- But it is also true that there is immeasurably more to be thankful about

What Do You Have to Be Thankful For?

Think about it!

GIVE THANKS For What?

- Once we begin to consider all that we have to be thankful for, we lose count!
- The bottom line is: GOD IS GOOD and His love endures forever

‘Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. (1Chron 16:34)’

What (Who) Are We Thankful For?

- **Jesus**
 - Our gift from the Father
 - Our gift of life
 - Sends the gift of the Holy Spirit

‘Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!’
(2 Cor 9:15)

- If we get it, if we really get it... we can come through anything life throws at us and come out still thankful
 - This should mark us out as Kingdom people

Don't Be Thankless

- Mean it, don't moan it
 - Grudging thanks is an oxymoron
 - Genuine thanks is a grump shifter
- Don't get so familiar with the blessings that you forget to GIVE THANKS...
 - The inheritance story
- There is grave danger in being ungrateful
 - Matt 18:21-35
 - The ungrateful servant

How to GIVE THANKS

- A daily (hourly?) routine of thanks
 - Develop a lifestyle and habits of praise and thanks
 - Sometimes our words and choices will lead our lifestyle
- Keeping a fresh view of what / who we are thankful for
 - Fixing our eyes on Jesus
 - Renewing our mind with His Word
 - Living in the Spirit
- ‘Put a Praise on it’ Tasha Cobbs
 - ‘Tasha, you just gave me a Christmas Praise’

**PUT A
PRAISE
ON IT (+ LYRICS)**



How to GIVE THANKS

- It shouldn't be about 'geeing ourselves up' to GIVE THANKS
- Its about keeping your eyes on what you have to be thankful for
- Paul and Silas in prison are able to sing hymns of praise and write letters about being thankful because of where their focus was.
- The challenge is to keep ensuring we keep a bigger picture in front of us of what we have to be grateful for than that which might bring us down

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Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the Holy One

**Give thanks because He's given Jesus
Christ, His Son**

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"

Let the poor say, "I am rich

Because of what the Lord has done for us"

(Don Moen)