*THE PRACTICE of GODLINESS* by Jerry Bridges

**Chapter Eight– “Thankfulness” – Psalm 100:4-5**

**“Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name. For the LORD is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting And His faithfulness to all generations.” (Psalm 100:4-5NASB)**

*“Some virtues of Christian character, such as holiness, love, and faithfulness, are godly traits because they reflect the character of God. They are godlike qualities. Other virtues are godly traits because they acknowledge and exalt the character of God. They are God-centered qualities that enhance our devotion to God. Such are the virtues of humility, contentment, and thankfulness. In humility we acknowledge God’s majesty, in contentment His grace, and in thankfulness His goodness.” (pg. 97)*

**T** he Lord is good. Do you believe that? It’s easy to say God is good in times of comfort but

**H** ow about in times of crisis? It’s easy to thank God when your health is flourishing, but how

**A** bout when your health is failing? It’s easy to claim God’s faithfulness when all has been calm

**N** onetheless, how about when all breaks out into chaos? If you and I are not persuaded by the

**K**  indness of God, the goodness of God and the faithfulness of God in times of turmoil, we will

**F** alter at being thankful to God, fail to reflect the character of God, and fall short to glorify God

**U** nderstand this, to fail to be thankful to God is a most grievous sin and will lead to ungodly

**L** usts and morbid thoughts…and ultimately God’s judgement if not repented of (Rom 1-2:16).

**N** ow, if failure to give thanks is such a grievous sin, then it is our responsibility to cultivate an

**E** ver-increasing spirit of thankfulness that permeates our prayers and inhabits our praises!

**S** cripture everywhere anticipates God’s children to acknowledge Him, exalt Him, honor Him, to

**S** ing praises to Him, worship Him, and to glorify Him. We must daily thank God for all that we are and for all that we have(Lk.17:11-19; Daniel 6:10; Ps. 50:23; Ps. 92:1-2; Eph. 1:3; Rev. 4:9)!

Jerry Bridges says, *“The foundation of an attitude of thankfulness is a life lived in fellowship with Christ. As Colossians 2:6-7 suggests, thankfulness is the overflow of being rooted and built up in Christ. As we abide in Him, as we see His power at work in us and through us, as we call upon Him for our needs and experience His provision, our response will be thanksgiving. Like any other trait of godly character, thankfulness is a result of the Holy Spirit’s ministry in our hearts. He gives us a thankful spirit, but He does this through our fellowship with Christ.”*

*“Although an attitude of thankfulness is the work of the Holy Spirit, it also comes as a result of personal effort on our part. We must cultivate the habit of giving thanks to God for everything (Eph. 5:20) and in everything (1 Thess. 5:18)…for this is God’s will for us in Christ Jesus” (pg. 102)*

If thankfulness to God is *“absolutely necessary to the practice of godliness” (pg.99),* then…

Gratitude to God must replace grumbling! Memorizing God’s Word must replace murmuring!

Praying to and praising God must replace panicking! Worshipping God must replace whining!

Delighting in God must replace doubting! Thanking God must replace trespassing against God!

Jerry Bridges states that, *“Our situation is never so desperate that it is not fitting to give thanks to God…” (pg.100)*

Ladies, is there something or someone that you are grumbling and murmuring about? What is so important to you that you feel like you have to whine*(complain)* to others about it? Is there something that has struck your heart will fear and panic, lately? Are you plagued with numerous doubts and discouragements in the season of life our Lord has you in right now?

If you are struggling, confess and repent of your sins to God, count your blessings one by one and be confident that the indwelling Spirit of God will take the Word of God and transform your tumultuous hearts into tranquil hearts as you put on a thankful heart!

***“O come, let us sing for joy to the LORD, Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. For the LORD is a great God, And a great King above all gods.” (Psalm 95:1-3NASB)***

Pressing onward and looking upward in our pursuit of holiness and our practice of godliness,

Christyn