

A Gratitude Prayer Exercise

Great People are Grateful

People
GREAT DAYS OF PRAYER
**Forward Together in Changing
Times**

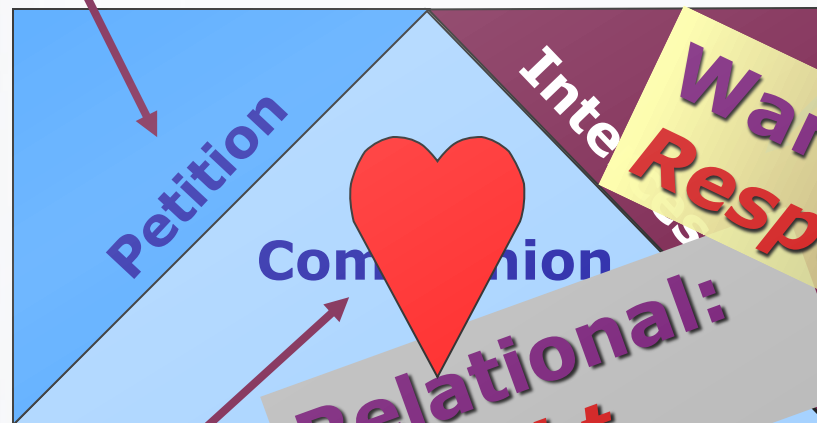
An Alive Ministries PROJECT PRAY prayer resource

Three Aspects of Prayer

Thanksgiving!

Legal - Right

Prayer as Petition is inviting the Kingdom of God into every situation – thy will be done! Submitting our request; Asking & Receiving ...



Prayer as Intercession is petitioning in behalf of others – pray for the lost ... standing in the gap for their greatest need.

Warfare - Responsibility - Duty

Relational: Delight

FOUNDATION: The best calling of prayer is Communion - Relationship with God

Gratitude Praying ...

- ☐ **God, You have been so good to me. I remember when you ...**
- ☐ **This week, you answered a prayer for me when you ...**
- ☐ **God, I want to thank you for ...**

The Principle of Gratitude!

*No duty is more urgent
than that of returning thanks.—*

Saint Ambrose

*None is more impoverished than the one who
has no gratitude.*

*Pride slays thanksgiving, but an humble mind is
the soil out of which thanks naturally grow.
A proud man is seldom a grateful man, for he
never thinks he gets as much as he deserves.—*

Henry Ward Beecher

Thankfulness & Pride

- ☐ Gratitude is the child of humility.
- ☐ Expresses dependence!
- ☐ Remains tender!
- ☐ Appreciative!
- ☐ Sweet and optimistic!
- ☐ Gives credit and praise – easily!
- ☐ Knows a Big God!
- ☐ God is so good!
- ☐ Full of God!
- ☐ Ungratefulness is the child of pride.
- ☐ Expresses independence!
- ☐ Tends to become hard!
- ☐ Demanding!
- ☐ Bitter & disappointed!
- ☐ Desires credit and praise – addictively.
- ☐ Knows a small god!
- ☐ I am so good!
- ☐ Full of Self!

We Give Thanks ...

- ❑ AT HOME – Daniel 6:10**
- ❑ AT MEAL TIME – in Public (Matthew 15:36)**
- ❑ COMMUNION - MATTHEW 26:27**
- ❑ TIMES OF CRISIS - Acts 27:33-35**
- ❑ IN WORSHIP - I Corinthians 14:16**
- ❑ CONTINUALLY – Hebrews 13:15**
- ❑ IN EVERYTHING - I Thessalonians 5:18**

We Give Thanks ...

❑ AT HOME – Daniel 6:10

- Daniel ... went *home*. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom.

❑ AT MEAL TIME – in Public (Matthew 15:36)

- Jesus - And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, *and gave thanks*, and brake them, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the *multitude*.

❑ COMMUNION - MATTHEW 26:27

- – And he took the cup, *and gave thanks*, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

❑ TIMES OF CRISIS - Acts 27:33-35

- Paul (- Paul besought *them* all to take meat ... (14 days they had taken nothing) ... take *some* meat: for this is for your health: for there shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you. And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken *it*, he began to eat.

❑ IN WORSHIP - I Corinthians 14:16

- When you bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupies the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he does not understand.

❑ IN EVERYTHING - I Thessalonians 5:18

- In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

❑ CONTINUALLY – Hebrews 13:15

- Let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name. Hebrews 13:15

Where?

ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING AND HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE!

- ❑ **AT THE GATES OF THE TABERNACLE**
 - Coming in to the house of the Lord – I am to hear thanksgiving!
- ❑ **IN THE CONGREGATION – Public (Psalm 35:18)**
- ❑ **AT THE GATES OF THE CITY – Nehemiah 12:24**
- ❑ **AT THE WALLS OF THE CITY - Nehemiah 12:27**
- ❑ **THROUGHOUT THE CITY – Nehemiah 12:31-42**
- ❑ **AMONG THE UNSAVED: SING! (II Sam. 22:50)**
- ❑ ***THANKSGIVING IS AN EVANGELISM TOOL –***
 - *Therefore I will give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and I will sing praises unto thy name. (II Sam. 22:50)*
 - *Let me shout God's name with a praising song,
Let me tell his greatness in a prayer of thanks. Psalm 69:30*

Where?

*ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING AND HIS COURTS
WITH PRAISE!*

❑ AT THE GATES OF THE TABERNACLE

- Hezekiah appointed the courses of the priests and the Levites ... every man according to his service, the priests and Levites for burnt offerings and for peace offerings, to minister, and to give thanks, and to praise in the gates of the tents of the LORD. (II Chronicles 31:2)
- Coming in to the house of the Lord – I am to hear thanksgiving!

❑ IN THE CONGREGATION – Public (Psalm 35:18)

- I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people.

❑ AT THE GATES OF THE CITY – Nehemiah 12:24

- And the chief of the Levites ... with their brethren over against them, to praise *and* to give thanks, according to the commandment of David ... ward over against ward ... porters keeping the ward at the thresholds of the gates.

We Give Thanks ...

□ AT THE WALLS OF THE CITY - Nehemiah 12:27

- At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites to bring them to Jerusalem, to keep the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings, and with singing, *with* cymbals, psalteries, and with harps.

□ THROUGOUT THE CITY – Nehemiah 12:31-42

- I brought up the princes of Judah on the wall, and appointed two great *companies that gave* thanks ... *one* on the right hand on the wall ... After them ... half the princes of Judah ... And *certain* priests' sons with trumpets ... with musical instruments of David the man of God ... they went up by the stairs ... above the house of David to the water gate eastward. The other *company that gave* thanks went ... from beyond the tower of the furnaces to the broad wall ... from above the gate of Ephraim and the old gate and above the fish gate and the tower (s) ... to the sheep gate ... they stood in the prison gate ... the *companies gave* thanks ... the rulers with me: And the priests ... And the singers sang loud ... they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced: God made them rejoice with great joy: the wives and children rejoiced: ... the joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off.

Where?

- ❑ **AMONG THE UNSAVED: SING! (II Sam. 22:50)**
 - Therefore I will give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and I will sing praises unto thy name.

***THANKSGIVING IS AN EVANGELISM TOOL -
Psalm 69:30***

*Let me shout God's name with a praising song, Let me tell
his greatness in a prayer of thanks.*

- ❑ **AMOS 4:4**
 - Come to Bethel, and transgress; at Gilgal multiply transgression ... bring your sacrifices every morning, *and* your tithes ... And offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving with leaven ...

Movement - II Chronicles

16:8

- Give thanks unto the LORD,

- Call upon His name,

- Make known his deeds among the people.

- Sing unto him,

- Sing praises unto him,

- Talk of all his wondrous works.

□ Thanksgiving

□ Prayer - Invoking His name!

□ Evangelism!

□ Worship/Praise by Singing

□ Scripture based Worship

□ Evangelism

Thankful, Worshipful people are the best evangelist!

Evangelism flows out most naturally out of a grateful heart!

Why give thanks?

❑ FOR THE GOODNESS AND MERCY OF GOD! - Psalm 79:13

- Give thanks to the LORD; *he is good*; his mercy *endures* forever. Say, Save us, God our salvation, gather us ... deliver us ... that we may give thanks to thy holy name.

❑ FOR HIS HOLINESS - Psalm 30:4

- Sing ... saints ... give thank as you remember his holiness.

❑ MAGNIFIED for those who cannot yet see Him – Psalm 69:30-33

- I will praise the name of God ... and will magnify him with thanksgiving. *This* pleases the LORD better than a sacrifice ... *The humble shall see this, and* be glad and your heart shall live that seek God. For the LORD hears the poor, and despises not his prisoners.

❑ REDEEMED – Psalm 107:1-2

- O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endures for ever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy.

❑ RIGHTEOUS JUDGEMENTS – Psalm 119:62

- At midnight I will rise to give thanks because of your righteous judgments. I *am* a companion of those that fear you ...that keep your precepts. The earth, LORD, is full of your mercy: teach me your statutes.

❑ VICTORY – I Corinthians 15:7

- But thanks *be* to God, which gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. I Corinthians 15:7
- Now thanks *be* unto God, which always causes us to triumph in Christ, II Corinthians 2:14

❑ INHERITANCE – Colossians 1:12-14

- Giving thanks to the Father, who has made us partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: ... has delivered us from the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* forgiveness of sins: Col. 1:12

Silence and Praise

❑ Psa. 30:12

- I will sing praise ... and not be silent.

❑ Isa. 62:6

- Set watchmen on the your walls Jerusalem ...
[they] never hold their peace day or night ...
make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent!

❑ Psa. 32:3

- When I kept silent ... my bones grew old through
my groaning!

❑ Luke 19:37-40

- If these should stop praising ... even the stones
will cry out!

God – We thank you ...

☐ Thank God for ...

- The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and what that means ...
- Spiritual blessings ...
- Even in persecution and misfortune ...
- Future blessings... (List things for which you will give thanks for (in faith) before they happen)...
- Good health, material blessings and life in general...
- Answered prayers, for the privilege of prayer...
- Your family...
- Christian friends ...
- The Church!
- His word, the Bible. His witness to us.
- The indwelling Holy Spirit.

☐ Thank the Lord in ... our circumstances!

Offering Thanks for ...

The Holy Spirit

Creation

Your Word

**God's
Promises**

Life Itself

God's Presence

Salvation

Family

***The
Future***

Our Nation

Healing

Friends

Fiery Trials

Ministry Opportunities

Church

God's Goodness

The Privilege of Prayer

Thanksgiving Leads to Praise

- ❑ Thanksgiving focuses on the actions of God in our behalf –
 - He saved me.
 - Delivered me.
 - Healed me.
 - Comforts me.
- ❑ Praise steps back and ask, *“What kind of God does these kind of things?”*
 - A saving God ... a delivering God ... healing God ... comforting God ... **WHAT A GOD!**

Thanksgiving Leads to Praise

❑ Thanksgiving leads to PRAISE.

- Praise is beyond thanksgiving!
- It moves past an action or event ... to the greatness of God, Himself.

❑ Notice the difference ...

- God, I *thank you* for saving me ...
I *praise you* that you are a saving kind of God!
- God, I *thank you* for healing me ...
I *praise you* that you are a healing God!

❑ Thanks – *is for what he did!*

❑ Praise – *is for who he is!*

- *He does what he does, because of who He is!*

God, I am
Thankful
that You ...

- ☐ Saved me ...
- ☐ Guided me ...

**God, thank you
... sincerely ...
for what you
did ... FOR ME!
(Focus is still, in
part, on me!)**

God, I
Praise you
that you
are ...

**Whoa! What Kind
of God is this?
Does Things like
this?**

- ☐ A Savior!
- ☐ A God able & does
Guide
- ☐ (Now the focus
shifts! To Him!)
- ☐ Praise exalts Him
- ☐ — calls attention to
His
- ☐ exploits character!
- ☐ Are Pure Love! You never
give up on your children.

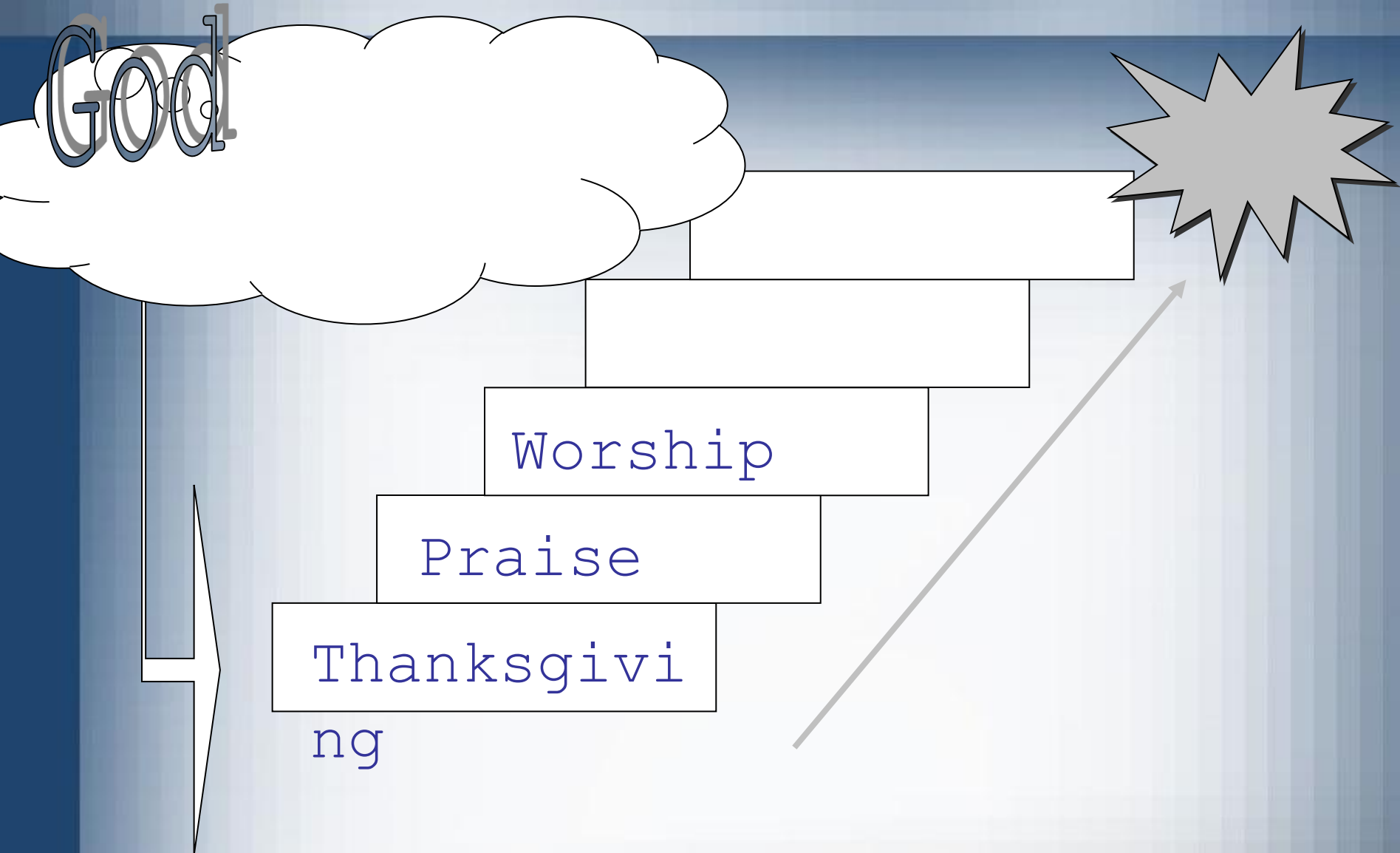
Reasons for my Praise

- ☐ Faithfulness – Psa. 75:22
- ☐ Greatness – I Chron. 16:25; Psa. 96:4
- ☐ Righteousness – Psa. 7
- ☐ Name – I Chron. 29:13
- ☐ Beauty of his Holiness – II Chron. 20:21; Psa. 22:3
- ☐ Goodness & Enduring Mercy– II Chron. 5:13
- ☐ Strength – Psa. 59:17
- ☐ Mighty Acts – Psa. 106:2
- ☐ Triumph – I Chron. 16:35
- ☐ Power – Psa. 2:13
- ☐ Word – Psa. 56:4, 10
- ☐ King of all the earth – Psa. 47:7
- ☐ Enthroned on our praises – Psa. 22:3

WHEN? WHERE?

- ☐ **Daily – Psa. 72:15**
- ☐ **Morning and Evening – I Chron. 23:30**
- ☐ **In the gates of the camp of the Lord – II Chron. 31:2**
- ☐ **In the Assembly – Psa. 22:22**
- ☐ **Among many people – Psa. 35:18**
- ☐ **In front of my children – Psa. 78:4**
 - ...tell the generations to come the praises of the Lord!
- ☐ **In the company of Elders – Psa. 107:32**
- ☐ **Before the gods, I will sing praise – Psa. 138:1**
- ☐ **All day long ... Psa. 35:28**
- ☐ **Seven times a day – Psa. 119:164**
- ☐ **Forever – Psa. 47:17**
- ☐ **Relentlessly: ... more and more – Psa. 71:14**

The Prayer Gateway



Praise Leads to Worship ...

- ❑ **Worship is deeper than praise!**
 - It moves us beyond his acts...
 - It sees His beauty!
 - It wonders after God.
 - It muses on his glory.
 - It is more than amazement at His mighty deeds – it is loving adoration!
- ❑ **Here we discover – God is “worth” more than anything else! He is incomparable. Beyond price.**

Worship Leads into His Presence ...

❑ **Worship leads to an experience of ...**

- God's LOVE and with that,
- an awareness of God's PRESENCE.
- The single clearest indication of God's Love is his PEACE.

❑ **His Presence Brings Peace!**

- Principle: You have not prayed, until you have prayed yourself to SILENCE. And you cannot pray, until you have silence in your soul.

See the Progression

God

Indicators of
His Presence:
**LOVE, PEACE &
JOY.**

