

FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

POWER of Thankfulness October 16, 2018 Suzi Armstrong

1 Thessalonians 5.16-24 NIV

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²² reject every kind of evil.

²³ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

- Rejoicing is an expression of thankfulness. It is the sound of worship and honor.
- Thankfulness expresses gratitude and honor.
- Rejoicing and thankfulness are part of believing God. We can't believe God without thankfulness filling our heart.
- A thankful heart BELIEVES God is able. A thankful heart SEES the arm of God. His faithfulness. His power. His authority. His provision.
- Psalm 100.4 says that thanksgiving is so powerful and significant that it OPENS the doors to come into His presence.
- Thanksgiving positions us. It aligns us to hope. We cannot lay hold of hope without thanksgiving.
- Circumstances and situations test our thankfulness, test our heart like a refiner's fire.

Colossians 1.1-3 NASB

¹ Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. ³ For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

- We set our mind or our thinking, our belief system, on God Himself. Who He is. Creator, Savior. Healer. Deliverer. Life giver.
- When the mind is FIXED, our thoughts do not entertain reasoning, consideration or emotion.
- Truth has been defined in your heart. It is solid. It fills your thoughts and expectations.

1 Corinthians 11.24 NASB

and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

- Jesus entered into His last moments before being betrayed and then crucified giving thanks.
- Nothing could separate Jesus, a man, from the love and provision of God.
- The power of thanksgiving kept alignment, vision and focus riveted on the sovereignty of God.



In the power of thanksgiving there is a KNOWING that God is who He says that He is. There is no darkness, no fear, no threat that undermines God's goodness or power. Thanksgiving says, "I believe." "I trust." Thanksgiving is part of the substance of faith. Thanksgiving is dynamic – it is a living and breathing supernatural substance. Thanksgiving helps guard our heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Thanksgiving hosts creativity – all things are possible, only believe. Miracles, signs and wonders are in thanksgiving. Nations and cities come to life and breathe hope in the sound of thanksgiving. Purpose and destiny abound in a grateful heart.

Psalm 60.6 TPT

Then I heard the Lord speak in his holy splendor. From his sanctuary I heard the Lord promise: "In my triumph I will be the one to measure out the portion of my inheritance to my people, and **I will secure the land** as I promised you."

Psalm 65.9-13 TPT Reworded for Detroit

⁹ **Your visitations of glory bless Detroit;**

the rivers of God overflow and enrich it.

You paint the wheat fields golden as **you provide rich harvests.**

¹⁰ Every field is watered with the **abundance of rain**—
showers soaking the earth and softening its clods,
causing **seeds to sprout** throughout the land.

¹¹ You crown Detroit with its yearly harvest,
the fruits of your goodness.

Wherever you go the tracks of your chariot wheels drip with oil.

¹² Luxuriant green pastures boast of your bounty
as **you make every hillside blossom with joy.**

¹³ The grazing meadows are covered with flocks,
and the fertile valleys are clothed with grain,
each one dancing and shouting for joy, creation's celebration!
And **they're all singing their songs of praise to you!**



Song of Songs 4.13-15 TPT Reworded for Detroit

¹³⁻¹⁴ **Your inward life is now sprouting, bringing forth fruit.**

What a beautiful paradise unfolds within you Detroit.
When I'm near you, I smell aromas of the finest spice,
for many clusters of my exquisite fruit
now grow within your inner garden.

Here are the nine:

pomegranates of passion,
henna from heaven,
spikenard so sweet
saffron shining
fragrant calamus from the cross,
sacred cinnamon,
branches of scented woods,
myrrh, like tears from a tree,
and aloe as eagles ascending.

¹⁵ Your life flows into mine, pure as a garden spring.
A well of living water springs up from within you,
like a mountain brook flowing into my heart!

Revelation 11.17 TPT Reworded for Detroit

"We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,
who is, and who was,
because you have established
your great *and limitless* power and begun to reign in Detroit!

- New life has come into our city.
- We see Your hand of power and might in our city bringing transformation.
- We see Detroit taking its place among the cities of the nations.
- Our hearts are filled with thanksgiving and gratitude for Your faithfulness.
- Truly, the earth is Yours and everything in it. **You ALONE are God and King.**

