One of the most important lessons for every believer is to thank God at all times and for all things, because that is what the Word of God teaches us:

> *1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)*
> *“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”*

There are certain breakthroughs in life that are unlocked only through thanksgiving. It doesn’t require intense effort or loud pleading. Thanksgiving prayer touches the heart of God in a unique and profound way—sometimes even more than prayers of petition. Why? Because it reflects the value and honor we place on God and His work in our lives. It is a humble expression of gratitude that acknowledges God’s hand, whether seen or unseen, and this deeply moves Him.

Thanksgiving Should Be Our First Prayer

In truth, thanksgiving should be the very first kind of prayer we offer—even before confession or making requests. Simply being alive is the first reason to thank God. Without life, we wouldn't even have the opportunity to pray or seek Him.

Let us now explore one key benefit of thanksgiving through the example of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus Gave Thanks Before Performing Miracles

If you study the life of Jesus in the Gospels, you will notice a consistent pattern: before performing a supernatural miracle, Jesus first gave thanks to the Father.

One clear example is the feeding of the four thousand. Before multiplying the loaves and fishes, He gave thanks:

> *Matthew 15:33–37 (NIV)*
> *"His disciples answered, 'Where could we get enough bread in this remote place to feed such a crowd?'*
> *'How many loaves do you have?' Jesus asked.*
> *'Seven,' they replied, 'and a few small fish.'*

> *He told the crowd to sit down on the ground.*
> *Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, and when he had given thanks, he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and they in turn to the people.*
> *They all ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over."*

You might not realize how significant that act of thanksgiving was in releasing the miracle. But Scripture confirms it again:

> *John 6:23 (NIV)*
> *"Then some boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks."*

The verse makes it clear: it was when Jesus gave thanks that the miracle was released.
He did not beg the Father to multiply the bread. He simply gave thanks, broke it, and the multiplication happened.

There are times in life when, instead of asking for more, you need

to stop and thank God for what you already have—and as you do, the breakthrough will come.

Jesus Gave Thanks Before Raising Lazarus

Another profound moment is when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. Once again, Jesus began with thanksgiving before commanding the miracle.

> *John 11:39–44 (NIV)*
> *"'Take away the stone,' he said.*
> *'But, Lord,' said Martha, the sister of the dead man, 'by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.'*
> *Then Jesus said, 'Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?'*
> *So they took away the stone.*
> *Then Jesus looked up and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me.*
> *I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.'*
> *When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!'*
> *The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with*

> *strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.*
> *Jesus said to them, 'Take off the grave clothes and let him go.'"*

Did you see it? It was a prayer of thanksgiving, not pleading, that preceded the resurrection of Lazarus. Jesus expressed confidence in the Father's constant attention, and that gratitude became the gateway to one of the greatest miracles in Scripture.

Why Thanksgiving Is Essential for Every Believer

Do you have the habit of thanking God daily?

Thanksgiving should not be a short or hurried part of our prayers—it deserves to be long and intentional, because we have countless reasons to thank Him. If you're born again, your salvation alone is reason to thank God for hours. Think about it: if you had died before you gave your life to Jesus, where would you be today?

Even your ability to breathe is reason enough to give thanks. Many people—some better or more righteous than we are—have

passed away. Yet you are alive today. That is grace.

We are called to thank God not only for the good things He does, but also for the times when things don’t go according to our expectations. Why? Because we may not understand God’s purpose in that moment, but His plans are always for our ultimate good.

Take Job, for instance. If Job had not given thanks and remained faithful during his trials, he would never have seen the double blessing that came afterward.

> *Job 1:21 (NIV)*
> *“‘Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart.*
> *The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.’”*

So you and I must learn to give thanks in everything—the good and the bad. Because we trust in the goodness and sovereignty of God:

> *Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)*
> *“‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”*

Conclusion: Let Thanksgiving Shape Your Walk with God

Dear believer, cultivate the lifestyle of thanksgiving. Let it be the foundation of your prayer life. Learn from Jesus—He gave thanks and miracles followed. He honored the Father through gratitude, and the supernatural was released.

So today, instead of focusing only on what you lack, thank God for what you have.
Thank Him before you see the breakthrough, not just after. That’s true faith—and it moves the heart of God.

May the Lord bless you richly!

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encouraged through God’s Word.

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