

Character Trait for November 26-30 is Gratefulness

Ephesians 5:1, "Therefore, be imitators of God"

CHARACTER: qualities built into our lives that determine our responses, regardless of circumstances.

Gratefulness: Letting others know by my words and actions how they have benefited my life.

Weekly Verse: Ephesians 5:19-20 "Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"

Bible Story: Acts 16:16-20 gives the account of Paul and Silas in prison. Even in the midst of persecution, they chose to pray and sing hymns to God.

Are you thankful no matter what? Perhaps you have lost your job recently, as the economy has continued to struggle. Or you may have lost your health, or a loved one. Such circumstances can be tremendously difficult. But even so, we all have much to be thankful for. The story of Paul is the story of a man who had every right to be bitter—but wasn't.

Separated from friends, unjustly accused, brutally treated—if ever a person had a right to complain, it was this man, languishing almost forgotten in a harsh Roman prison. But instead of complaints, his lips rang with words of praise and thanksgiving!

The man was the Apostle Paul—a man who had learned the meaning of true thanksgiving, even in the midst of great adversity. Earlier, when he had been imprisoned in Rome, Paul wrote, "Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"

Think of it: Always giving thanks for everything—no matter the circumstances! Thanksgiving for the Apostle Paul was not a once-a-year celebration, but a daily reality that changed his life and made him a joyful person in every situation.

Application:

1. Thank God for the Material Blessings That He Gives You
"Wealth and honor come from you ... We give you thanks, and praise your glorious name ... Everything comes from you" (1 Chronicles 29:12-14)
2. Thank God for the People in Your Life
"I always thank God for you" (1 Corinthians 1:4)
3. Thank God in the Midst of Trials and Persecution
"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance" (James 1:2-3)
4. Thank God for His Salvation in Jesus Christ
"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15)
5. Thank God for His Continued Presence and Power in Your Life
"for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose." Philippians 2:13