

## What Can I Give God for Thanksgiving?

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11.22.2015

Psalm 116

**SAY WHAT? What could I possibly give to God? [v.12]**

**SO WHAT? What are all His benefits toward me? [vv.1-8]**

- 1) He hears & answers prayer. [vv.1-2]  
(see Matthew 7:7-11)
- 2) He graciously rescues & saves our lives. [vv.3-6]  
(see Hebrews 2:14-15)
- 3) He deals bountifully with us. [v.7]  
(see Romans 8:32)
- 4) He lifts us up in every way - spiritually, emotionally, & morally. [v.8]

**NOW WHAT? I can give God... [vv.13-17]**

a) A "toast" to His salvation of me (v.13)

Psalm 13:5, *But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation.*

b) The fulfillment of a promise - no matter the cost (vv.14-15)

Ecclesiastes 5:4, *When you make a vow to God, do not be late in paying it; for He takes no delight in fools. Pay what you vow!*

c) An act of service (v.16)

Galatians 5:13, *For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*

d) A word of thanks (v.17)

Psalm 9:1, *I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart.*

# Connection Group Questions

Taken from the sermon on November 22, 2015

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## ■ Questions for “Group Discussion”

- What is the funniest/strangest gift you have ever received or given?
- How do your actions/attitudes/speech to others reflect your thankfulness to God for what He has done for you?
- Have you ever dedicated a period of time (day, week, month) to only give thanks? If so, how did that impact you? If not, will commit to give thanks for a week?

## ■ Questions for “Personal Growth”

- **Monday: Be thankful....**Please read Psalm 116 completely through. What condition was the Psalmist in when he wrote this? What personal struggles burden you to the point of despair? Now please go back through and list the images of God presented in this passage. When you pray, do you believe that you are speaking with a God of compassion who lends His loving ear to you? Praise Him with gratitude and, as you pray, trust Him with your greatest fears. God, who created you, loves you through the storms of life. Be thankful!
- **Tuesday: A love from gratitude...**Please re-read Psalm 116, focusing on verses 1 and 12 as well as 1 John 4:19. How should you respond to our gracious, compassionate, righteous Yahweh who rescues our soul and restores us to rest? To “render” (Heb., shuwb) means to ‘return unto’. What is the first response we should have? Please read Matthew 6:33; John 21:15; and Romans 12:1-2. What are some of the ways that you can demonstrate your grateful love for Him today?
- **Wednesday: God hears your “call”...**Please re-read Psalm 116, focusing on v. 2, plus Philippians 4:6-7 and 1 Thessalonians 5:17. Do you, through prayer, include God in your every decision? What is the result of calling upon Him? Begin the practice of bringing everything before God in prayer. Try using the acrostic A-C-T-S: Adore (Praise) Him, Confess your sin, with Thanksgiving, and Supplication; lift it all up to God who cares!
- **Thursday: Rest in Peace...**What does Psalm 116:7a tell us we should do after calling upon and trusting Him with our greatest struggles? REST is translated from the Hebrew word meaning a “settled spot”. To be settled in our trust in the Lord provides peace and contentment. Please read Proverbs 3:5-6 and Psalm 37:4. In what ways do you “lean on your own understanding” rather than fully trust Him? Confess this to Him and acknowledge His desire and ability to direct your paths. Slow down... and fix your mind on the Lord. Trust Him and let Him give you peace in the storm.
- **Friday: In thanksgiving: Commit yourself to Him...**Please review Psalm 116:9-18, along with John 15:5, Psalm 107:2; Revelation 12:11; Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 2:20 and Hebrews 13:15-16. What are other ways we can give back to God? Take some time to consider ways that you can “walk/abide” with Him, be a living sacrifice and testimony unto Him and, as an act of worship, receive wisdom, strength and courage from Him.