

# Thanksgiving

**Biblically Shaped Worship:  
Psalms and Prayers (2)**

**21 August 2022 Christies Beach Baptist Church  
Stephen Spence**

# The Psalms: The Prayer Book of God's People



The Psalms show us what it looks like for the gathered people of God to respond to God. They **expand our vocabulary** of prayer and worship.

Psalms don't just teach *about* worship; they *are* worship. **They invite us to learn by doing.**



*Rev Dr Melinda Cousins*

# Psalms of Thanksgiving

Psalms of praise focus on the character of God.

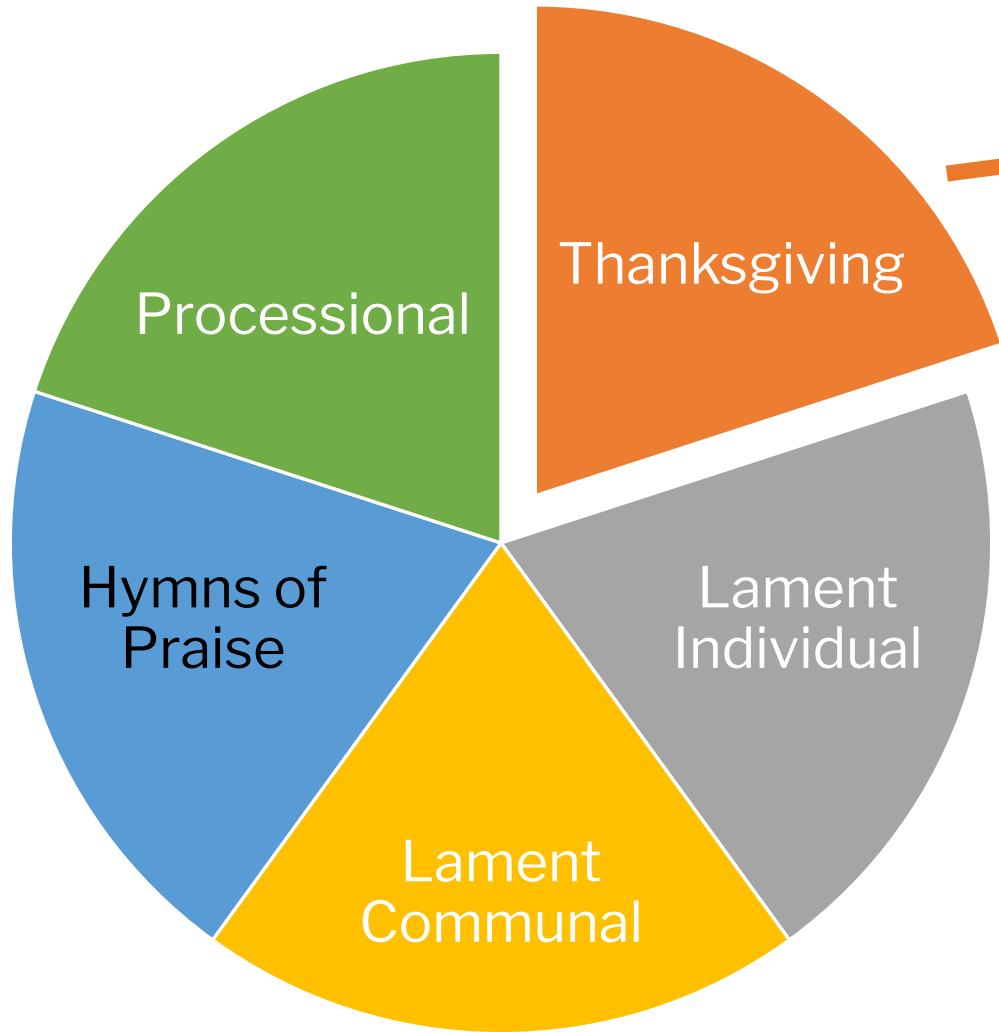
Psalms of **thanksgiving** focus on the actions of God.

*However, God's actions arise from God's character and God's character is revealed through God's actions.*

Praise is an act of proclamation.

Thanksgiving is an act of testimony, **"I will tell of all the marvellous things you have done"** (Psalm 9:1).

# The Psalms: The Prayer Book of God's People



>10%, but many other Psalms and Prayers have moments of thanksgiving in them

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.

Psalm 106:1; 107:1; 118:1, 29; 136

*Does this reflect the worship pattern of the church and our personal devotional practice?*

# Thanksgiving for Ordinary and Extraordinary Blessings

Miracles are extraordinary blessings that draw our attention to God.

But, when our lives are going well, we often overlook God's ordinary blessings.

*Be thankful **in** all circumstances,  
for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.*

1 Thessalonians 5:18

*What happens if we refuse to give thanks in the presence of God?*

# Thanksgiving makes us aware of God's love

Arguably, God's language of love is gift giving.

***Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.***

James 1:17

***Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.***

Psalms 136:1

Each time we give thanks, we are opening a gift and finding the love inside.



*What happens if we refuse to give thanks in the presence of God?*

# Thanksgiving keeps as connected to God

Connecting to  
God  
in a storm

**LAMENT**

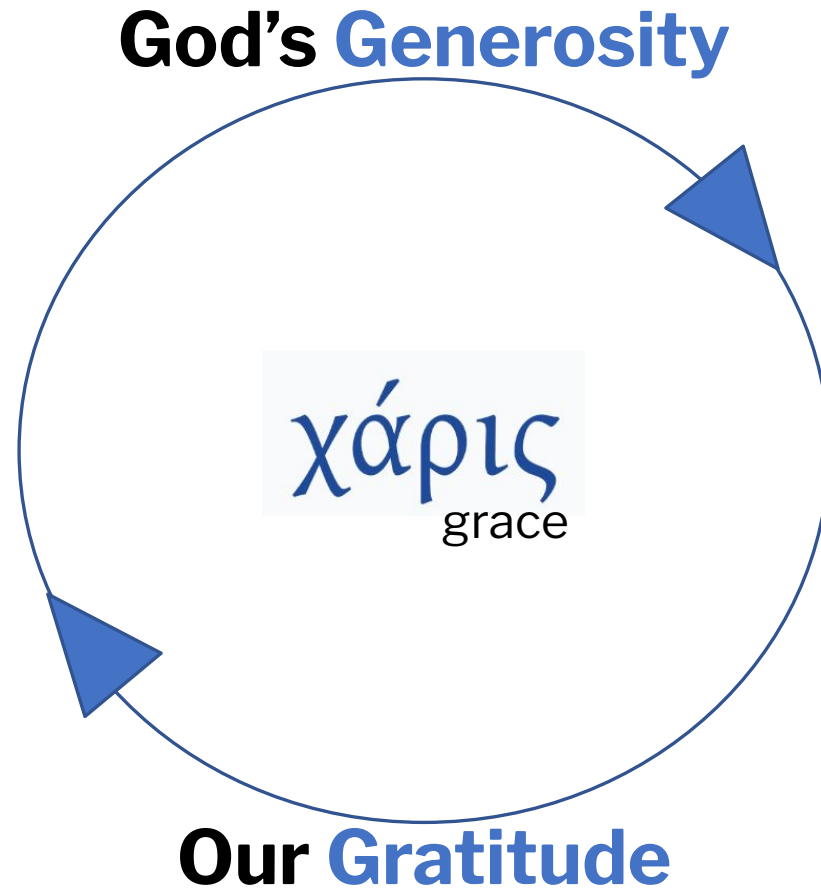
Connecting to  
God  
in the good times

**THANKSGIVING**

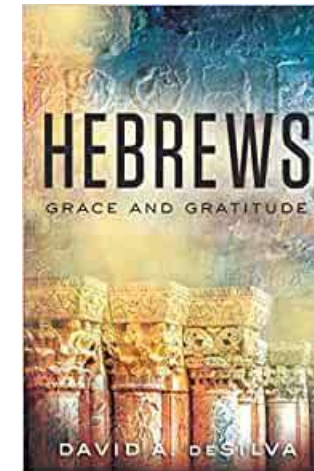
*What happens if we refuse to give thanks in the presence of God?*



# Thanksgiving completes the circle of Grace



**Ingratitude kills faith.  
Ingratitude resists  
grace.**



**David  
deSilva**

*What happens if we refuse to give thanks in the presence of God?*



# Thanksgiving is a part of Christian Worship

We thank you, O God! We give thanks because you are near.  
People everywhere tell of your wonderful deeds. (Psalm 75:1)

Salvation

Crucified Jesus  
the Holy Spirit

Personal

I

Corporate

We

# When we experience blessing...

Those who believe in the goodness of God **give thanks**.

Those who believe in the compassion of God **give thanks**.

Those who believe in the faithfulness of God **give thanks**.

**Giving thanks** keeps those who believe in God connected to God.

*Does this reflect the worship pattern of the church and our personal devotional practice?*

# The Psalms: The Prayer Book of God's People

1. Thanksgiving is relational. It completes the circle of grace. It keeps us connected to God.
2. Thanksgiving is an act of testimony to ourselves, the church, and our networks.
3. Thanksgiving enhances our joy, builds our faith, gives us hope, keeps us humble, makes us generous.

*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever. Psalms 136:1*