Secret weapon for Laodicea

1 Cor. 15:57; Heb. 13:15

 **ILL.** During any war a country has a secret weapon

обычные виды оружия, атомное оружие, секретное, тайное оружие

1. Emphasis the weapon of thanksgiving.

2. A weapon that is very much needed today as never before to prevent the devil and your flesh and the world getting victory in your life is **thankfulness**.

3. Thanksgiving is not much talked about let alone practiced.

If it was in the lives of Laodiceans we would have less backsliding and getting out of fellowship with God.

4. The lack of thankfulness opens up for your flesh and the devil to get the upper hand.

In other words, when you do not thank God you are saying “I’m not pleased with my Heavenly Father.”

Unthankful (2 Tim. 3:2; Luke 6:35, 36).

 **ILL.** Preacher talked about going to the altar to pray and he just started praising God. He just kept on going.

 **ILL.** David’ secret weapon

He is a good example of thanking God in the midst of troubles, many troubles.

Circumstances would not stop David from thanking the Lord.

He was a man after God’s heart.

He could praise the Lord **no matter what the situation and circumstances.**

He spent more time thanking the Lord than he did complaining.

Psa. 31:7 **Буду радоваться и веселиться в милости твоей: ибо ты призрел на беду мою; ты узнал душу мою в бедствиях;**

Psa. 66:13, 14

**Войду я в дом твой с приношениями сжигаемыми: исполню тебе обеты мои,**

**Которые произнесли уста мои, и изрек язык мой, когда был я в беде.**

 **ILL.** Job’s secret weapon.

 He was a man that lost everything. Yet he got the victory when he said,

Job 1:21 **“И сказал, Наг я вышел из чрева матери моей, наг и возвращусь туда: ГОСПОДЬ дал, ГОСПОДЬ и забрал; благословенным будь имя ГОСПОДА.**

**22 Во всем этом не согрешил Иов, и не обвинил Бога безрассудно.”**

That was Job’s weapon.

He could praise God despite the loss.

That is the power of God in a person who had everything taken from him.

 **ILL.** Daniel secret weapon in Babylon could thank the Lord.

-Location could not stop Daniel from thanking the Lord. (Dan. 6:10)

-You don’t have to understand every and all situations.

-But you are required to give thanks to God because He knows every and all situations.

-Therefore you’re to HABITUALLY thank the Lord.

 **ILL.** A preacher that went to the altar to simply thank the Lord. But he kept going. He began to thank the Lord for every little things.

-The Lord was saying, “Just keep going. Keep thanking me for even the rough times.”

-He was sensing God’s presence like never before.

-He was totally oblivious of the time going by, the altar call and the service ending. But he just kept on thanking God.

-The Lord was saying, “Now we’re getting somewhere.”

 **ILL.** Jesus rejoiced because of God hiding truth to the wise and prudent (Lk. 10:21).

**I. COLOSSIANS MENTIONS THANKSGIVING 6 TIMES**

1:3

1:12, 13 because of the **inheritance**…**delivered us**…**translated us**. Revelation in the AV and in our translation.

2:7 rooted and built up abounding with thanksgiving. Warning (v. 8)

3:15 something you’re **supposed TO BE**. Revelation in the AV and in our translation.

3:17 something you’re supposed to GIVE.

4:2, 3

-That means because there is not enough of it today.

-It is written several times as an antidote. [противоядие](http://www.multitran.ru/c/m.exe?t=30717_2_1&s1=antidote)

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-As if to live ***IN*** it as a wall of protection against the enemy.

**II. IT’S A SACRIFICE**

1. Not when everything is going just fine in your life but when you’ve got something that doesn’t ‘fit’ you right.

That was the purpose of thanksgiving. It was a sacrifice, offering, etc. (Lev. 7:12, 13, 15).

That’s when thanksgiving really means something to God.

That is when in the Spirit of God you can really sacrifice.

He is getting His due not matter what.

 **ILL.** Mob boss gets his due no matter what.

**III. IT IS A MEANS OF KEEPING YOU FROM FALLING** (Rom. 1:21).

1. That’s why it is a weapon You’re to give thanks in **“everything”** (Eph. 5:20)

2. To keep you from getting bitter because of rejection and no results (Matt. 11:25).

 i. Luke 6:32, 33, 34 So just go ahead and just thank the Lord.

**IV. IT IS A MEANS OF DELIVERANCE** (Jon. 2:9).

1. It will raise you up over the circumstance.

2. You think you’ve had it rough.

 God delivered Jonah. He can deliver you, no matter what the situation.

Cf. We won’t thank the Lord because we think we got which we don’t deserve.

 **ILL.** 2 Chron. 20:22 When Jehoshaphat and company began to praise the Lord, THEN the Lord fought for Israel. WOW!

God gave them the victory because He saw their hearts despite the insurmountable odds against Israel. But God…!

How often God’s children get defeated in battle because of lack of thankfulness.

It is a sword of thankfulness.

Cf. Lev. 14:27-29

 I’m going to give you what you are accusing me of.

 Since you do not want to thank Me for what I’ve done then I’ll give you what you want.

 **ILL.** The minority came through the wilderness wanderings.

 The majority fell and died in the wilderness.

**V. THE PRACTICAL ASPECT OF IT**

1. You’re going to thank God for the bitter lessons in life.

 i. That *helps you receive new instruction*.

 **ILL.** Dillinger (1930’s) “When I get out I’m going to be the meanest bastard you’ve ever seen.”

 The jail sentence didn’t do him any good.

 **ILL.** Esau just got bitter

2. You’re going to thank God for something that you usually do not like and see God trying *to help you out of a bad habit*; complaining, jealousy, pride, envy, bitterness, etc.

 **ILL.** Those that came out of the wilderness got into the Promised Land.

3. You’re going to thank God for it is a *prerequisite* (необходимое условие) for the grace of God to *work to help get over things*.

 **ILL.** David could thank God while in a cave. God brought him out.

4. You’re going to thank God for heartily thankfulness is a *springboard to be a better witness*. (1 Cor 15:57, 58). исходное положение для наступления

5. You’re going to thank God *to lead others to the Lord*.

 **ILL.** Woman at the well wanted to tell everybody what happened.

**VI. YOU COME TO HIM SIMPLY BECAUSE HE IS WORTHY**. He is more than your problems (Psa. 100:4).

God Himself is pleased when we give thanks because He is well pleased.

God Himself is glorified (Rev. 4:9).

That means you’re to thank Him simply because He is worthy!

That’s the most important reason why. It’s not connected with how you’ve been dealt with.

It is because God deserves all the praise, honour and glory. He is worthy.

It is a FREE-WILL offering of thanksgiving BECAUSE God is on the throne. He is good, absolutely and altogether GOOD! Praise God!

That He would be magnified (Psa. 69:30).

Practice

Thank you for my health.

Thank you for answers to prayer.

Thank you for the clothes I’ve got,

The food I’ve eaten,

The provision of shelter,

The opportunity to come to church,

The water you give me to drink.

I’m blessed even because I’m tired. I could be tired having used drugs.

I’m blessed because I’ve been used of God.

I might be tired but if you’re tired because you’ve worked. Thank God you CAN work.

Conclusion

Invitation

Saved – to offer an offering of thanksgiving, a free-will offering.

Focus on nothing else but to thank Him.

Unsaved – you can’t praise God until you come to know God.

All that you do is hopeless and useless until you get saved.

Even your “thankfulness” is vain with salvation.

 **ILL.** Lady wanted to kiss me while I stood on the street because I was passing out “Day of Victory.” She was crossing herself. It’s all in vain without salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Prov. 15:8 **Жертва нечестивых – мерзость для ГОСПОДА:**

At all the Orthodox and Catholic Churches they all stand around waiting for the Baalite priest to sprinkle on them water. What a circus. What a curse.

Prov. 21:4 **Высокомерный взгляд, и гордое сердце, *и* пахота нечестивых, *есть* грех.**