

## The Force of Thanksgiving

Pastor George began by sharing some of the things he is thankful for.

- His wife, Pastor Terri Copeland Pearsons
- His Son who is preaching the gospel, Jeremy Pearsons
- His Daughter who is part of EMIC, Aubrey Mitchell
- Brother Kenneth and Sister Gloria Copeland, for there stand, their faith, their love and obedience to all that God calls them to.

### Prayer with Thanksgiving

*Philippians 4:6-7;*

*“Be careful for nothing; but **IN EVERY THING** [in the midst, of whatever you are experiencing] by prayer and supplication **WITH THANKSGIVING** let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”*

*(AMPC)*

*“Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but **IN EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE** and **IN EVERY THING**, by prayer and petition (definite requests), **WITH THANKSGIVING**, continue to make your wants known to God. And God’s peace which transcends all understanding shall garrison and mount guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”*

We know that thanksgiving is an expression of gratitude for and demonstrating what **HAS ALREADY** been given to us.

We thank God as He answers our prayers the moment we pray them in faith. We thank others for blessings received. There is the thanksgiving that takes place before the results are physically seen – between the amen and there it is.

### Thanksgiving is a Spiritual Force

*1 John 5:14-15; (AMPC)*

*“And this is the confidence (the assurance, the privilege of boldness) which we have in Him: [we are sure] that if we ask anything (make any request) according to His will (in agreement with His own plan), He listens to and hears us. And if (since) we [positively] know that He listens to us in whatever we ask, **we also know [with settled and absolute knowledge] that we have {NOW} [granted to us as our present possessions] the requests made of Him.**”*

*Mark 11:20-24 (KJV)*

I have it, it is mine and it belongs to me!

*Psalm 103:1-5 (KJV)*

V. 1 – Everything within me is blessed, my heart, my lungs, my blood, my entire body.

Thanksgiving is a spiritual force that is released while standing in faith for the desired result. (It's one of the fruit of the Spirit)

- Thanksgiving aids our faith by drawing the results in faster. It compresses the time it takes (i.e. the one leper that returned to give thanks for what he received, and the result was he was made whole.)
- Wholeness comes out when we give thanks to God.
- It is like a magnet that pulls the desired result out of the realm of the Spirit.
- In the midst of thanking God, as we stand on His Word, we are overcoming the works of the enemy as we push back the enemy by the faith of God that comes out of our mouth – the enemy can't see the faith in our heart, so we need 'words.'
- It is like a battering ram that pushes through any hinderance.
- Things happen in the Spirit every time you say, "Thank You!" Why, because in the Spirit it is already done.

i.e.;

- Thank you NOW for my healing.
- Thank you NOW for my provision.
- Thank you NOW for the answer.
- Thank you NOW for the direction.
- Thank you NOW for being more than enough. By faith, I have it NOW in Jesus Name! Thank you!

**We can thank our way out of any attack of the devil!**

### **The Force of Thanksgiving in Action — Daniel in the Lion's Den**

*Daniel 6:1-10; (NIV)*

*"It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss. Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps*

by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.

Finally, these men said, “We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God.” So the administrators and the satraps went as a group to the king and said: “O King Darius, live forever!

The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or man during the next thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into the lions’ den. Now, O king, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered — in accordance with the laws of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.” So King Darius put the decree in writing.

Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, **giving thanks to his God**, just as he had done before.”

- Prayers at times like these normally consist of requests, but Daniel continued to give thanks.
- Daniel knew the outcome and thanked God for it.
- Daniel’s thanksgiving opened the door to his deliverance.

Vv. 19-23 (NIV)

“At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions’ den. When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?” Daniel answered, “O king, live forever! My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king.” The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. **Daniel thanked his way out of the lion’s den!**”

## **The Force of Thanksgiving in Action — Paul and Silas in Prison**

Acts 16:19-26; (KJV)

*“And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers, And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city, And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans. And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them. And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.”*

Vv. 25-26

*“And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and **sang praises unto God:** and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.”*

What songs were Paul and Silas singing?

**Praise (in the Greek) HYMNEO = Hymns; Songs to celebrate God.**

They sang the Hallel Hymns (Psalms 113—118).

They sang, “The Great Hallel” (Psalm 136).

“The Hallel Hymns” are songs of praise that express thanksgiving and gratitude to God for His redemption, deliverance, and kindness to Israel.

They were sung on Jewish festival occasions such as Pentecost, the feast of Tabernacles, the feast of Dedication and Passover.

These were some of the hymns which Jesus and His disciples sang at the conclusion of the Passover supper in the upper room (Matthew 26:30).

**“The Great Hallel,” was the great song of praise and thanksgiving.**

- It was sung on the first evening at the Passover supper.
- It was also sung during occasions of great joy such as a long-awaited rain following a long period of drought.

Psalm 136:1-3;

*“O give thanks unto the LORD; for He is good: for His mercy endureth for ever. O give thanks unto the God of gods: for His mercy endureth for ever. O give thanks to the Lord of lords: for His mercy endureth for ever.”*

Paul and Silas were singing thanksgiving songs to God during their situation.

- Their thanksgiving activated a major earthquake.
- Their shackles were loosed and the prison doors opened.

**Paul and Silas thanked their way out of prison!**

### **The Force of Thanksgiving in Action — Paul and Silas in Prison**

*1 Corinthians 15:57; (AMPC)*

*“But thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory [making us conquerors] through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

*2 Corinthians 2:14; (AMPC)*

*“But thanks be to God, Who in Christ always leads us in triumph [as trophies of Christ's victory].”*

*Our outcome is guaranteed in Christ,  
and our victory is already an accomplished fact.*

### **What kind of situation are you in right now?**

**Let's give God thanks for the successful outcome.**

### **Responsive Reading of “The Great Hallel” (Psalm 136)**

*O give thanks unto the LORD; for He is good:  
for His mercy endureth for ever.*

*O give thanks unto the God of gods:  
for His mercy endureth for ever.*

*O give thanks to the Lord of lords:  
for His mercy endureth for ever.*

*To Him who alone doeth great wonders:  
for His mercy endureth for ever.*

*To Him that by wisdom made the heavens:  
for His mercy endureth for ever.*

*To Him that stretched out the earth above the waters:  
for His mercy endureth for ever.*

*To Him that made great lights:  
for His mercy endureth for ever:*

*The sun to rule by day:  
for His mercy endureth for ever:*

*The moon and stars to rule by night:  
for His mercy endureth for ever.*

*To Him that smote Egypt in their firstborn:  
for His mercy endureth for ever:*

*And brought out Israel from among them:  
for His mercy endureth for ever:*

*With a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm:  
for His mercy endureth for ever.*

*To Him which divided the Red sea into parts:  
for His mercy endureth for ever:*

*And made Israel to pass through the midst of it:  
for His mercy endureth for ever:*

*But overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red sea:  
for His mercy endureth for ever.*

*To Him which led His people through the wilderness:  
for His mercy endureth for ever.*

*To Him which smote great kings:  
for His mercy endureth for ever:*

*And slew famous kings:  
for His mercy endureth for ever:*

*Sihon king of the Amorites:  
for His mercy endureth for ever:*

*And Og the king of Bashan:  
for His mercy endureth for ever:*

*And gave their land for an heritage:  
for His mercy endureth for ever:*

*Even an heritage unto Israel his servant:  
for His mercy endureth for ever.*

*Who remembered us in our low estate:  
for His mercy endureth for ever:*

*And hath redeemed us from our enemies:  
for His mercy endureth for ever.*

*Who giveth food to all flesh:  
for His mercy endureth for ever.*

*O give thanks unto the God of heaven:  
for His mercy endureth for ever.*