

Gratitude or Grumbling

November 22nd, 2020 by Kasey Crawford

Today's Passages: Num. 13-14, James 1:16-17, Phil 4:8, 2 Cor 10:4-6

Whether you choose to make gratitude or grumbling a way of life, may mean the difference between spiritual life and death.

Harvard Medical School definition of gratitude, gets to the root of why it is so important in life.

"The word gratitude is derived from the Latin word gratia, which means grace... With gratitude, people acknowledge the goodness in their lives. In the process, people usually recognize that the source of that goodness lies at least partially outside themselves."

Gratitude is rooted in _____ the grace all around you.

This Harvard definition affirms a fundamental aspect of the Christian worldview: Every good thing you have in life is a _____ from God (grace).

Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

James 1:16-17

"Don't be deceived..." If we don't live with the posture of gratitude that recognizes every good thing in life is a gracious gift from God, then we have been deceived, we are living under a _____. And that always has negative consequences.

A tremendous example and warning of this is found in Numbers 13-14.

"How long shall this wicked congregation grumble against me?"

Grumbling is a sad summary of the people's posture from almost the moment God freed them from slavery in Egypt.

Grumbling is the outward sign of an inward
"...your children shall be shepherds in the wilderness, and they shall suffer for your faithlessness," Num. 14:30

The word "faithlessness" זְנוּת (*zēnûṭ*), literally means fornication, prostitution. The grumbling of the Israelites was a symptom that revealed they had abandoned God; their hearts had "fornicated" with other gods.

In many cases, what the Israelites grumbled about was not God. But they _____ on the negativity to the bitter poison that destroyed faith and hope and brought death.

What you choose to focus on becomes your reality.

Gratitude is the recognition of the Grace that God has given. Grumbling is the failure to recognize the Grace that God has given.

Gratitude is therefore a crucial spiritual discipline. It is not live from seeing the reality of God's grace in your life.

"Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure...think about these things." Philippians 4:8
The word "think about" literally means, "to guard."

"take every thought captive to obey Christ," 2 Cor 10:5

God has given us weapons to win the war against the enemy, so that you walk in increasing victory. Where is this war taking place? Your mind. Train your mind to take every thought captive.

Responding to God...

What are you training your mind to dwell on? Is it producing gratitude or grumbling?