



BRANCHES

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 19; ISSUE 21

October 8, 2025

Being Thankful for What We Do Have: A Christian Perspective

In a world that often encourages us to focus on what we lack, it's easy to overlook the blessings we already have. As Christians, gratitude isn't just an attitude—it's a spiritual practice and a profound acknowledgment of God's provision and sovereignty. The Bible continually calls us to be thankful, not just in moments of abundance but in all circumstances.

A Heart of Gratitude Is God's Will

In **1 Thessalonians 5:18**, Paul writes, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." This verse doesn't say to be thankful only when things are going well. It challenges us to adopt a posture of gratitude even in trials. Why? Because thankfulness aligns our hearts with God's will and reminds us of His ultimate control over our lives. It's natural to focus on our unmet desires: the promotion that didn't come, the relationship that didn't work out, or the healing that hasn't yet arrived. But when we pause to reflect, we see God's faithfulness in our lives. The roof over our heads, the meal on the table, the friends who support us—these are all evidence of His goodness.

Gratitude Shifts Our Perspective

When we choose to be thankful, we shift our focus from what we don't have to what we do. Gratitude is a powerful antidote to dissatisfaction and envy. It helps us see life through the lens of abundance rather than scarcity. Consider the story of the Israelites in the wilderness. After being miraculously delivered from Egypt, they quickly began to complain about the lack of variety in their diet. In their grumbling, they forgot the miracle of manna God provided daily.

Like the Israelites, we too can forget God's blessings when we dwell on what's missing. Choosing gratitude helps us keep His provision in view and fosters a spirit of contentment.

Gratitude Draws Us Closer to God

Thankfulness is a form of worship. When we express gratitude, we acknowledge God as the source of every good thing. As **James 1:17** reminds us, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights." When we praise God for what we have, we deepen our relationship with Him, recognizing His hand in every aspect of our lives. In **Philippians 4:11-12**, Paul writes about learning to be content in all circumstances. Contentment isn't about denying desires but about trusting God's provision for today while holding hope for tomorrow.

Gratitude in Every Season

Even in difficult seasons, we can find reasons to give thanks. Romans 8:28 assures us, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." Trials refine our character, draw us closer to God, and reveal His sustaining grace. When we focus on the blessings God has already given us, we cultivate joy, peace, and a stronger faith. Let us take a moment to thank Him today—for the big things, the small things, and even the things we may not fully understand. In doing so, we honor the One who is faithful in all seasons.

Conclusion

Gratitude is more than a response to blessings—it's a declaration of trust in God's plan and His goodness. As you navigate life, remember that being thankful for what you have is not just an act of obedience but a source of profound spiritual strength. In gratitude, you will find joy, peace, and a closer connection to the God who loves you beyond measure. Let your thankfulness be a light to others, pointing them to the infinite goodness of our Heavenly Father.

Write-Up Adapted from an Article in Godly Love Magazine

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Food Bank:** We need your help! Food bank is in need of **canned goods and boxed food**. Drop off at FBC during church office hours, food can be dropped off in the bins near the elevator.
- **Operation Christmas Child:** Help us fill up the shoe boxes by **November 16, 2025**.
- **Wednesday Night Suppers:** Everyone is invited to join the church meal - time and fellowship on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Reservations can be made through REALM or by contacting the church office.
- **Jolly Agers:** Next meeting will be November 4, 2025.
- **Family Fall Festival:** October 26th at 5:00 pm Games, Chili Cook Off, Trunk-or-Treat, Hay Rides, Food, and lots of Fun! Please invite the community and bring a friend or two.
- **Christmas is coming!** The Adult Choir invites you to join us for rehearsals on Wednesday nights at 6:15 upstairs. We are preparing for our cantata on Sunday, Dec. 14. Please join us!

SERVANTS @ A GLANCE

Deacons: **October 12/** Randall Wardlaw & Matt Shirley
October 19/ Linda Nicholson Beard & Susan Harvin
Greeters: **October 12/** Beth Bray
October 19/ Daniel Hill
Ushers: **October 12/** Marilyn Henderson, Ann Rhoads, Bob Greco,
Paula Langston & Vickie McElroy
October 19/ William Westbrooks, Bill Hairston, Matt Shirley,
Dakota Malcom, & Emerson King
Nursery Team: **October 12/** Pam Canup & Jennifer Sanders
October 19/ Cameron Shirley & Sumer Hill
Children's Worship: **October 12/** Stacey Hayes
October 19/ Amy Halley

FOOD BANK DELIVERY VOLUNTEERS

Week of October 6: Jeanie Whitener
Week of October 13: Ann Rhoads
Week of October 20: Sharon Highsmith
Week of October 27: Mark Beardsley



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Monthly Giving Required: \$40,117
Monthly Giving as End of September: \$46,753.24
YTD Giving Required through September: \$481,390
YTD as of End September: \$498,544

BIRTHDAYS

10/8: Joan Witherington
10/9: Clare Lin Spear
10/10: Jimmy Bray & Annie Hill
10/15: Leslie Stephens
10/16: Angela Watkins
10/21: Greg Perry
10/23: Cody Braselton
10/24: Sandra MacDonald & James Roberts
10/26: Susan Barrier
10/27: Harold Ward
10/30: Renee Chandler



MEALS ON WHEELS

10/8: Beverly George
10/9: Carol Hodgkins
10/10: Bess Stanford & Ann Garner
10/13: Jean Montrose
10/14: Kathy Thomason & Janis Miller
10/15: Ernie & Kathy Pruett
10/16: Mark & Barbara Beardsley
10/17: Renee Kelley
10/20: Glenda Barron
10/21: Tracy Wilson
10/22: Patsy Simmons & Vickie McElroy



MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

General Budget in memory of Jim Farr
Music Ministry in memory of Darce Chandler
Music Ministry in memory of Pete Allen
General Budget in memory of Dr. Jon Milford
Music Ministry in memory of Mike Rhoads



NEXT MEETING November 4, 2025

12:00 Noon in the Fellowship Hall
Event is FREE; Just bring something tasty to share, and invite a friend!

Upcoming Excursion

November 13th
Join us for a Shopping Trip to Hamrick's Department Store & Lunch!
*Cost: Your food and Your Shopping
*We will leave the Church at 10:30 AM



IN OTHER NEWS

SERVE WITH YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

USHERS/GREETERS NEEDED

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FBC Family Fall Festival

Volunteers are needed to help with games

We need candy donations!



It's that time of year again!
Operation Christmas Child.
Help us fill the shoeboxes up by Sunday November 16, 2025!



You're Invited to attend the
Retirement of Judge Billy Chandler

Sunday, November 9, 2025
Drop in between 3 and 5

Commerce Administrative Complex
Harmony Grove Hall
110 State Street
Commerce, Georgia