



Grace Bible Fellowship

NOVEMBER 2023

Give Thanks to the Lord With Your Whole Heart

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever. Give thanks to the God of gods, for His steadfast love endures forever. Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for His steadfast love endures forever. Give thanks to the God of heaven, for His steadfast love endures forever. Psalm 136:1-3, 26

Psalm 136 is a psalm of thanksgiving. From beginning to end, it heralds praise to the Lord for all He has done and the many ways He has blessed His people. The first three verses set the stage by commanding the worshiper to give thanks to the Lord, and in each, the psalmist varies the title used for God. First, we give thanks to Yahweh (translated the LORD). He is the great I AM, who was, is, and always will be. It reminds us of how God revealed Himself to Moses in Exodus 3:14-15, “God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.” Second, we give thanks to the God of gods. He is the only God we are to worship because He is the only living God. All other so-called “gods” are idols, both dead and lifeless (1 Cor. 8:5-6). Third, He is the Lord of lords. We give thanks to Him, who rules over all. His Kingdom cannot fail, and it is ultimately established by Jesus, pictured in Revelation as having “King of kings” and “Lord of lords” written upon His thigh (Rev. 19:16). In our thanksgiving, we remember we give thanks to someone. When we take time to think about what we are thankful for, it is necessary first to think of Him to whom we are giving thanks. He is Yahweh, the God of gods, and the Lord of lords.

After instructing us to whom we give thanks, the psalmist then gives us reasons why we give thanks to Him. The first reason we give thanks is because God is good. The definition and standard of goodness are bound to God’s person. We would not know what is good if God were not good. When we give thanks, do we consider God’s goodness? If we struggle to be thankful, it may be imperative for us to meditate on His goodness and how He has been good to us in our lives.

The next reason to give thanks is repeated 26 times in the psalm (one time in each verse). Give thanks to the Lord because His steadfast love endures forever. God’s steadfast love can also be translated as “lovingkindness,” “mercy,” or simply as “love.” The word describes a loyal and unfailing love, often used to describe the covenantal

love the Lord has with His people. In the middle of Psalm 136 (verses 4-25), we read about how the Lord demonstrated His enduring steadfast love to His people. Such repetition reminds us that our thankfulness to the Lord will never cease because His love towards us will never end. There is never a day we should not be thankful, especially knowing the epitome of God's lovingkindness in the cross of Christ. "But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Finally, the psalmist caps off the song by directing our thankfulness to the God of heaven (vs. 36). He is sovereign and above all things. While imminently involved in our lives, we remember He is the transcendent God, who is seated on high and whose glory is above the heavens (Psalm 113:4-5). We give thanks to the One who is in control and providentially orchestrating all things according to the purpose of His will. Let us then continually give thanks to the Lord with our whole heart and seek to magnify the splendor and majesty of His works (Psalm 111:1-3).

*In Christ,
Pastor Tyler*

Upcoming @ Grace...

November 4th

Men's Breakfast 8-10am

November 6th

Partial Carpet Cleaning @ 8:30am

November 21st

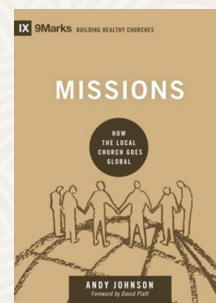
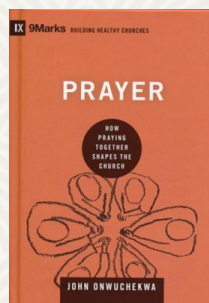
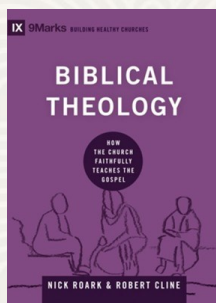
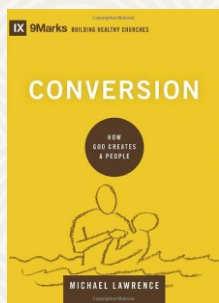
Board Meeting @ 6:30pm

November 26th

Christmas Dinner & Decor 5-8pm

Pastor's Suggested Reading

- **Conversion: How God Creates A People** by Michael Lawrence
- **Biblical Theology: How the Church Faithfully Teaches the Gospel** by Nick Roark and Robert Cline
- **Prayer: How Praying Together Shapes the Church** by John Onwuchekwa
- **Missions: How the Local Church Goes Global** by Andy Johnson





Worship Through Prayer

Our Ministry Volunteers

Elders/Deacons

Pastor Tyler, Eric, Jason, and Jeff

Ministry Volunteers

Pastor Tyler & Alyssa, Eric & Andi, Paul & Renée, Dennis & Lori, John & Mary, Valerie, Dan & Christine, Aaron, Christian, Graeham, Matt & Rebekah, Jason & Amanda, Jeff & Jill, Yessie, Patty, Kris, Kailee, Evangeline, Caleb, Lydia, & Marcos.

Sunday School Teachers

Pastor Tyler Sultze: Adult

Amanda Lafferty/Yessie Castro-Yanez: 3rd – 8th grade

Elder Eric Bjerkaas: Pre-K – 2nd grade

- Pray for our church. Pray that as the world would seek to persecute and divide the Church, that we would remain steadfast in suffering keep our eyes fixed on Christ. Pray we would continually be a place where the gospel is proclaimed with boldness and love. Pray we would remain faithful to reading, studying, and sharing the gospel. Pray we would be a place that encourages meaningful discipleship and spiritual growth among our brothers and sisters.
- Pray for our missionary partners in the Gospel, Karl & Glynn Peterson, Destin & Jennifer Detwiler, and Sillas & Wanger Campos.

- Pray for John Lindenmeyer's health and strength in his daily walk with the Lord. Pray the Lord would sustain Mary as she cares for him in his pain.
- Pray for Amanda Lafferty as she continues the healing process from spinal surgery and prepares for wrist surgery on November 17th.
- Pray for Don & Angie Faux as they continue to press on, trusting the Lord, to care for Don's headaches and sustain them through this trial.
- Pray for our Wednesday evening Bible study on the Book of Revelation. Pray the Lord would prepare both Pastor and those who will attend.
- Pray for our parents and the challenges they face raising children of all ages. Pray the Lord would provide wisdom, grace, rest, and strength for them as they raise up and point their children to the Lord.
- Continue praying for Yessie's uncle Max as he is still on the transplant list.
- Pray for our community and for us to have a heart that longs to share and spread the Gospel among the Illinois Valley.
- Pray for the ministries of Grace Bible Fellowship. Pray that they would remain Christ-focused and seek to glorify the Lord.

2023 November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Bible Study - 6:30 PM	2	3	4 Men's Breakfast & Book Discussion: 8-10 AM
5 Sunday School - 9AM Worship Service - 10AM	6 Carpet Cleaning - 8AM	7	8 <i>NO Bible Study</i>	9	10	11
12 Sunday School - 9AM Worship Service - 10AM Prayer Service - 5PM	13	14	15 Bible Study - 6:30 PM	16	17	18
19 Sunday School - 9AM Worship Service - 10AM MISSIONS GIVING - DETWILERS	20 Administrative Office Closed	21 Board Meeting - 6:30PM	22 <i>NO Bible Study</i>	23 HAPPY THANKSGIVING	24	25
26 Sunday School - 9AM Worship Service - 10AM Christmas Dinner & Decorating: 5-8PM	27 Administrative Office Closed	28	29 Bible Study - 6:30 PM	30	1	2 Women's Coffee & Devotional: 9-11 AM

Upcoming December Events...

December 2nd – Women's Coffee & Devotion 9-11am
 December 6th – Last Bible Study Until January 31st
 December 24th – No Sunday School
 December 31st – No Sunday School

December 3rd – Advent Begins
 December 19th – Board Meeting
 December 24th – Christmas Eve Service @ 6:30pm

Happy BIRTHDAY

21st – Matt Hays
24th – Graeham Rumley

