

Thanking God

While on vacation with some friends, our breakfast was one of those “serve yourself” type. Coffee and donuts were set out to eat when you were ready. After some of us were doing just that, one of the group wondered aloud, “is a donut enough to give thanks to God?”

Most of us, at various times, “grab” a sandwich on the run or eat snacks during the day but don’t take time to stop and give thanks to God for our food. Does this mean that those who sometimes eat on such occasions without first giving thanks to God are not grateful for God’s blessings?

Certainly, we should thank God for every blessing we receive including our food at mealtime. On two occasions, Jesus gave thanks for the food before feeding the multitude (Matt 14:19, 15:36). Thankfulness, however, is more than giving thanks before we eat, it is an attitude that permeates every aspect of our lives. Thankfulness to God affects how we view and treat our brothers and sisters, our fellow humans, the environment, and all of God’s creation.

We should always have a grateful heart for what God has done for each of us. A good place to start is recognizing that God is mindful of mankind and sent His son to visit us (Psalm 8:4). We who strive to be like His Son should be thankful to God for all the blessings He gives us, both big and small. God’s gift of forgiveness of our sins and the peace of mind He offers are overwhelmingly greater compared to material things we may receive in this life, regardless of the quantity. These alone are reasons enough for us to be thankful and willing to become living sacrifices, holy, acceptable to God (Rom. 12:1).

We find expressions of thankfulness to God throughout the New Testament, but gratitude is perhaps expressed best by our commitment to take up our cross daily and follow after Jesus (Lk. 9:23). If we show our love to God by the way we live day-by-day, our gratitude will be abundantly clear.

For the elders,
Don Denton