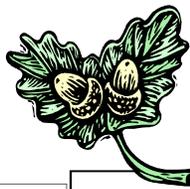


May 08, 2016



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks  
Baptist Church  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**  
The worship most acceptable to God comes from a thankful heart

**POEM FOR THE WEEK:**  
Then let us adore and give Him  
His right, All glory and power, all  
wisdom and might, All honor and  
blessing, with angels above, And  
thanks never ceasing for infinite  
love. —Wesley

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**  
*Oh, give thanks to the Lord! Call upon  
His name; Make known His deeds  
among the peoples!*  
(Ps 105:1 NKJV)

*(from "Our Daily Bread", Mar 29, 2010)*

Series: The Gift of Faith

UNIT: Fullness of Faith

NEXT WEEK

Humble Faith  
(Luke 18:9-14)

Grateful Faith  
Luke 17:11-19

**Aim and Application of the Lesson**

The lesson reviews why we should have **Grateful Faith** as a result of what God has done for us. The **study's aim** is to understand that being thankful is the normal response to what God has done for us. The **study's application** is to cultivate a greater awareness of regularly being thankful and to express openly to others thanks to God for His blessings.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

**Lesson Introduction and Background**

We take a lot for granted. Before you start to protest, stop and think a minute. Do you have a place to sleep at night? What about clothing and food? What about your health and that job providing an income for you? It is easy to coast along when things are going well. My grandfather had a saying for that: "You never realize what you have until it is gone." The people in this week's lesson show us the contrast between gratitude and taking things for granted. Take a closer look at the people involved in this passage. These ten men were in dire straits. They had leprosy, a disease that affected every aspect of their lives. There were few things worse in Jewish society than to have leprosy. Having this disease was like a living death. People with it were forced to separate themselves from society. They could not earn a living, attend services at the temple, or even associate with their own families. As the disease progressed, it became even more debilitating. Those with it lost limbs. Their skin slowly decayed until they were walking skeletons. It was a chronic disease without hope for a cure. When Jesus met them on the road and offered healing, you might assume that they all would be grateful. Through this miraculous intervention, these men were reinstated to life. They went from decay and despair to newness and hope. Jesus handed back not just their health but their futures. Notice what happened. Out of ten men, only one returned to thank Christ (Luke 17:16-17). When we look even closer, we realize that this one was a Samaritan, not a Jew. Even Jesus commented on it (vs. 18). The only person to express gratitude was a foreigner with whom proper Jews would not even associate. When the man returned, Jesus commended him for his faith (vs. 19). Gratitude is essential to any believer's walk. It does not matter whether you are a new believer or one of many years. Expressing your thankfulness for God's blessings is imperative for growth. Psalm 22 tells us that God inhabits the praises of His people (vs. 3). He lives in our gratitude. Why should we have grateful hearts? First, He is God. We are His people (Ps. 100:3). He is good, not a tyrant (vs. 5). He hears us when we call (116:1). He has delivered us from death (vs. 8). Most important, by His Son's sacrifice, we are saved from an eternity of torment (Matt. 25:46). There is power in gratitude. When we turn to God with grateful hearts, He extends more mercy and greater blessing. Our walk is strengthened and deepened by demonstrating it (Col. 3:15-17). A believer who fails to express gratitude takes for granted God's blessing. God is not obligated to give us anything. We were created to glorify Him (Isa. 43:21), not He for us. When we choose not to show gratitude, there are serious ramifications (Isa 27:11). We become discontent and grumble against Him. It is not simply about offering occasional praise when life is going well for us. It is about cultivating continual thanksgiving in our hearts, which is to be practiced whatever the circumstance.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### SEEKING GOD'S MERCY (LUKE 17:11-13)

*Faith that God will come when we need Him most (11-12)*

God will be there because He is our helper (Heb 13:5-6)

God will be there because He is always with us (1 Chron 28:20)

God will be there because He will never forsake us (Ps 37:25)

God will be there because He answers our greatest needs (Isa 41:17)

God will be there because He upholds us (Isa 41:10)

*Faith in God's mercy (13)*

Because God is rich in mercy (Eph 2:4-5)

Because God's mercy provides us a living hope (1 Peter 1:3)

Because God's mercy is part of God's plan (Rom 11:32)

Because God's mercy is there in our time of need (Heb 4:16)

Because God's mercy endures forever (Ps 106:1)

### CLEANSSED THROUGH FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE (LUKE 17:14)

*Faith in God's guidance (14)*

Guidance into truth (John 16:13-15)

Guidance by the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:18)

Guidance into insight (Ps 119:99-100)

Guidance into understanding (Ps 119:130)

Guidance into wisdom (Prov 2:6)

*Faith requires obedience (14)*

Obedience that leads to righteousness (Rom 6:16)

Obedience in love (2 John 1:6)

Obedience that is better than sacrifices (1 Sam 15:22)

Obedience through putting God's words into practice (Matt 7:24-25)

Obedience through living holy (1 Peter 1:14-16)

### GRATEFUL THANKFULNESS (LUKE 17:15-16)

*Faith recognizes that God is the healer (15)*

God heals physically (Matt 14:14)

God heals spiritually (Isa 53:5)

God brings healing to those who humbly return to Him (2 Chron 7:14)

God brings healing because man needs healing (Matt 14:14)

*Faith compels us to thank God (16)*

Thankful for food (1 Cor 10:30)

Thankful for all things (Phil 4:6)

Thanksgiving for others (1 Tim 2:1)

Thankful for God' kingdom (Heb 12:28)

Thankful for God's indescribable gift (2 Cor 9:15)

Thankful for God's promised heavenly inheritance (Col 1:12)

### HEALING THROUGH FAITHFULLY GIVING GLORY TO GOD (LUKE 17:17-19)

*Faith always brings us back to God (17)*

Back to God for pardon of sin (Isa 55:6-7)

Back to God for salvation (Ezek 18:27)

Back to God with all our heart (Joel 2:12)

Back to God as part of examining our ways (Lam 3:40)

Back to God to find His grace and mercy (2 Chron 30:9)

*Faith motivates us to give God the glory (18)*

Give God the glory as part of our thanksgiving (2 Cor 4:15)

Give God the glory because in all things God should be praised (1 Peter 4:11)

Give God the glory in all things (1 Cor 10:31)

Give God the glory because His glory is over all the earth (Ps 57:5)

Give God the glory because His glory is in His sanctuary (Ps 96:6)

Give God the glory because He is the King of glory (Ps 24:7-10)

*Faith motivates God to respond (19)*

God responds to the prayers of the righteous (Ps 34:15-17)

God responds to the needs of obedient servants (Isa 58:6-11)

God responds to those who delight themselves in Him (Ps 37:4)

God responds to those who obey Him (1 John 3:21-22)