

# Supernatural Power of Thanksgiving

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## Preview

**Question** — *Is it possible that giving thanks is so supernaturally powerful that everything in this broken world would try to get us to be unthankful?*

- **2 Timothy 3:2** — Don't let thanks get stolen!

**Question** — *Is it possible that the hordes of hell quake at the thought of God's people unlocking the supernatural power of Thanksgiving?*

- **2 Chronicles 20:21-22** — outnumbered, praising, God sets ambush amongst enemy — they defeat each other. Enemy fears us being thankful!

**Question** — *Is it possible that if we made a commitment today to be more thankful than we ever have been before, that we would see miracles we've never seen before?*

**TODAY**— *unpack stories, scriptures, and principles that will help us experience more of the Supernatural Power of Thanksgiving*

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## Paul and Silas in jail...

...were arrested, beaten with rods, in stocks, maximum security

- **Acts 16:25-26**

But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

- gave thanks in need, supernatural power released, foundations of that which imprisons them quake, doors open, chains loosed, lost saved, saved delivered
- That's the Supernatural Power of Thanksgiving!

**If you want freedom you've never had before,  
you'll have to start giving thanks like you never have before!**

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## Paul's scriptures...

...10-11 years after imprisonment, 3 different churches, cover the region with this truth! (You can hear him remembering his miraculous prison experience).

- **Philippians 4:6-7**

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

**Application**— *no anxiety, in everything, pray with Thanksgiving, Romans 8:28 all things work..., supernatural peace gets released... it surpasses understanding, guards your heart and mind... That's the Supernatural Power of Thanksgiving!*

**If you want doors open you've never had open before;  
you'll have to start giving thanks like you never have before!**

**if you know God has spoken to you about something,  
start Thanking Him for it and see if  
that door doesn't open — that no man can shut.**

- **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

**Application**— *rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks, this is the will of God for you... (the will of God for you is mentioned only three times in the New Testament — here; 1Thessalonians 4:3 sanctification; 1Peter 2:15 doing good).*

**Giving thanks is the will of God for us, not just because He's worthy,  
but because of the supernatural power it releases on our behalf!**

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## **Paul got it from Jesus...**

*...without disciples preaching, multitudes following...*

- **John 6:5-13,22-23**

Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "**Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?**" But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little." One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?" Then Jesus said, "**Make the people sit down.**" Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted. So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "**Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost.**" Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten...On the following day, when the people who were standing on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other boat there, except that one which His disciples had entered, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with His disciples, but His disciples had gone away alone — however, other boats came from Tiberias, near the place where they ate bread after the Lord had given thanks—

**Application** — Jesus gave thanks in need, supernatural power released, miracle happened... five loaves and two fish feed 5,000 men, plus women and children. *That's the Supernatural Power of Thanksgiving!*

**Amazing** — “the thanks Jesus gave” out-shined the miracle itself... in describing where all the people and boats came from to see Jesus... It was called — NOT the place where little boy gave all he had, NOT the place where thousands were fed, NOT the place where 12 baskets of leftovers were picked up — but — **THE PLACE WHERE JESUS GAVE THANKS!**

**Giving thanks in needy, desperate, impossible,  
overwhelmed, outnumbered, situations  
releases the supernatural power of God to work on our behalf...**

- whether it's peace to get through it; or deliverance to get out of it; or provision to overcome it — **there's supernatural power in giving thanks!**

**Question** — Do you have “a place” where you need to give thanks in order to see God's supernatural power released? Relationship, Health, Finances, Job etc.

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### **Thanksgiving Declares God's Rule and Reign**

- **2 Chronicles 20:6-7 — Jehosaphat**

O LORD God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You? Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?

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### **Thanksgiving Demonstrates My Understanding of God's Goodness**

- **John 11:41-42 — Jesus** — Resurrection happens

Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me..."

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### **Thanksgiving Releases the Supernatural Power of God**

- Moses giving thanks before the Egyptian deliverance; Daniel giving thanks before the deliverance from the lion's den; the leper who had been cleansed from his disease became whole, after thanking Jesus (Luke 17:16,19).

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### **Church...**

...can't help but wonder what supernatural power God might release for us if we start giving thanks in ways and circumstances we never have before — imagine the possibilities — ask God for direction — see the results...

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## Discussion Questions

1. Is there an area in your life where you feel bound, where you feel like chains are around you? What did Paul and Silas do in Acts 16: 25-26?
2. Do you have any anxiety in your life about anything? What specifically? How can you get peace about it? Stop now and pray Philippians 4:6-7.
3. Is there a door in your life that needs to be opened, which you think is impossible to open? What can you do about it?
4. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says that “giving thanks in everything is God’s will for us.” Does this sound like a passive request, or a solid statement of truth?
5. Do you have “a place” in your life where you need to give thanks in order to see God’s supernatural power released?
6. What is it that you have already been given — that you have taken for granted — that you need to be thankful for?