



Week #2: Thanks

- Four simple prayers: _____, _____, _____, _____.

_____ keeps us from living with gratitude.

- I want it _____.

He told them this story: “A man had two sons. ¹² When the younger told his father, ‘I want my share of your estate now, instead of waiting until you die!’”

Luke 15:11–12 (TLB)

- I deserve _____.

“‘Your brother is back,’ he was told, ‘and your father has killed the calf we were fattening and has prepared a great feast to celebrate his coming home again unharmed.’

²⁸ “The older brother was angry and wouldn’t go in. His father came out and begged him, ²⁹ but he replied, ‘All these years I’ve worked hard for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to; and in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends. ³⁰ Yet when this son of yours comes back after spending your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the finest calf we have on the place.’”

Luke 15:27–30 (TLB)

How to live and pray with thanks:

- Practice and pray for _____.

I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

Philippians 4:12 (NIV)

Celebrate always, ¹⁷ pray constantly, and ¹⁸ give thanks to God no matter what circumstances you find yourself in.

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (Voice)

One shares liberally and yet gains even more, while another hoards more than is right and still has need.

Proverbs 11:24 (Voice)

- Be quick to turn every _____ back to _____.

Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee.

¹² *As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance*

¹³ *and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”*

¹⁴ *When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.*

¹⁵ *One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶ He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.*

¹⁷ *Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?”*

Luke 17:11–18 (NIV)

Discussion questions:

1. In what areas of your life do you feel a sense of entitlement, expecting more than what you have received?
2. Where have you missed an opportunity to be grateful towards God because of discontent in your heart? How can you see your present circumstances as an invitation to practice contentment?
3. What blessings have you recently received from God that you have not thanked him for? What keeps you from pausing to give thanks? Where might God be inviting you to return and acknowledge his goodness?

Recommended resources:

[Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers](#), by Anne Lamott

[One Thousand Gifts](#), by Ann Voskamp

[Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God](#), by Timothy Keller

[How to Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People](#), by Pete Greig

(TLB) The Living Bible (NIV) New International Version (Voice) The Voice

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Week #2: Thanks

- Four simple prayers: help, thanks, sorry, wow.

Entitlement keeps us from living with gratitude.

- I want it now.

He told them this story: “A man had two sons. ¹² When the younger told his father, ‘I want my share of your estate now, instead of waiting until you die!’”

Luke 15:11–12 (TLB)

- I deserve more.

“‘Your brother is back,’ he was told, ‘and your father has killed the calf we were fattening and has prepared a great feast to celebrate his coming home again unharmed.’

²⁸ “The older brother was angry and wouldn’t go in. His father came out and begged him, ²⁹ but he replied, ‘All these years I’ve worked hard for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to; and in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends. ³⁰ Yet when this son of yours comes back after spending your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the finest calf we have on the place.’”

Luke 15:27–30 (TLB)

How to live and pray with thanks:

- Practice and pray for contentment.

I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

Philippians 4:12 (NIV)

Celebrate always, ¹⁷ pray constantly, and ¹⁸ give thanks to God no matter what circumstances you find yourself in.

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (Voice)

One shares liberally and yet gains even more, while another hoards more than is right and still has need.

Proverbs 11:24 (Voice)

- Be quick to turn every blessing back to praise.

Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee.

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