

Deuteronomy 28:1-2 “Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. ² And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God: NKJV)

In verses 3-24, we learn God’s first intention is always to be a blessing when people follow His conditions (covenant); In verses 15-68 we learn curses outweigh blessings when God’s conditions are disobeyed; and all of this disobedience stemmed from unthankful hearts.

Deuteronomy 28:47-48 in the amplified Bible says, Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joyfulness of [mind and]

heart [in gratitude] for the abundance of all [with which He had blessed you], **48**
Therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the Lord shall send against you, in hunger and thirst, in nakedness and in want of all things; and He will put a yoke of iron upon your neck until He has destroyed you.

- *The blessings of God are not so much a result of His love rather they are tied to our obedience to His instructions.*

Isaiah 1:19–20 If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land; But if you refuse and rebel, You shall be devoured by the sword”; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken. (NKJV)

Today, we'll reflect on:

The Blessing of a Thankful Life

We should always express our appreciation and thankfulness to God, regardless of our surroundings.

A little boy was asked by his father to say grace at the table. While the rest of the family waited, the little guy eyed every dish of food his mother had prepared. After the examination, he bowed his head and honestly prayed, "Lord, I don't like the looks of it, but I thank you for it, and I'll eat it anyway. Amen."

- *God's blessings are consistent; our gratitude to Him will be dulled if we take things for granted.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 says, Rejoice always, 17. pray constantly, 18. give thanks in

all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. *(Revised standard version)*

- *We'll find what a true heart of thankfulness can produce in our scarcity.*

We have an example of this in John 6: 1-14 After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is *the Sea* of Tiberias. **2.** Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased. **3.** And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples. **4.** Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near. **5.** 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?”** **6.** But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. **7.** Philip answered Him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little.” **8.** One of His disciples,

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, **9.** "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?" **10.** 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. **11.** 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. **12.** So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "**Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost.**" **13.** 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. **14.** Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world." (*New King Jim version*)

- *A thankful heart is a thermometer monitoring the temperature of our faith. Complaining is sometimes the easier thing to do than listening to our heart.*
- *A thankful heart finds comfort in everything; a complaining mind (disconnected from the heart) finds comfort in nothing.*

Philippians 4:6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank him for his answers. *(The Living Bible)*

We aren't thankful to the Lord because things in life are good; rather, we're thankful because His goodness makes everything He provides good; God has our best interest at heart.

1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written: “*Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.*” (NKJV)

Unthankful people are complainers who never see God for who He really is:

Romans 1:20–22 says, For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21. because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. **22.** Professing to be wise, they became fools, (NKJV)

- *God's greatest pleasure is when we are thankful; His greatest displeasure is complaining about what we don't have.*

Psalm 103:1-5 Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, *bless* His holy name! **2.** Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: **3.** Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, **4.** Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, **5.** Who satisfies your mouth with good *things*, *So that* your youth is renewed like the eagle's. *(NKJV)*

God greatest displeasure with the children of Israel was their journey from Egypt to the promised land. It was easier for God to get Israel out of Egypt than to get Egypt out of the mind sets of the children of Israel.

One of the most harmful sins the Israelites committed in the wilderness was their constant complaining about everything from the point of their deliverance from Egypt to their journey towards the Promised land.

- *Many of our complaints stem from our associations with life experiences instead of trusting the Lord.*

For example, in Numbers 11: The children of Israel were always complaining about something. They complained because they had no water; when water was supplied, they complained it was bitter to their taste. They complained about not having food and when it was provided, they complained about the kind of food provided. They complained about not having meat.

Verse 1 Says, Now *when* the people complained, it displeased the LORD; for the LORD heard *it*, and His anger was aroused. So the fire of the LORD burned among them, and consumed *some* in the outskirts of the camp. (NKJV)

The Israelites always compared their experience with God with what they experienced in Egypt.

Numbers 11:4–6 Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: “Who will give us meat to eat? **5.** We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; **6.** but now our whole being *is* dried up; *there is* nothing at all except this manna *before* our eyes!” (NKJV)

Their complaining caused them to overlook their past victories and focus instead on what failure looked like from their eyes.