

PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Thus Saith the Lord

KNOW GOD

By Jeff Sweeten

It is the ungrateful who fail to see the blessings of God in every moment. This is not an indictment against those who grudgingly concede the trials of life, "*as is common to man*" (1 Corinthians 10:13), in expressions of disappointment and discouragement. We are easily overwhelmed in the mess of the moment and forget the big picture. However, our attention to life's blessings should be frequently brought into focus with thanksgiving. Such was the moment when the prophet, Nathan, announced King David's legacy (2 Samuel 7:1-17).

David's stunned and self-effacing response was saturated with humility as he exclaimed in probable surprise and obvious incredulity: "*Who am I, O Lord God? And what is my house that You have brought me this far?*" (2 Samuel 7:18). In fact, after conceding that for God to promise such an elevated endowment was effortless, for David the sheer lack of capacity to render a "thank you" sufficient to God's divine grace was debilitating. "*Now what more can David say to You? For You, Lord, know Your servant*" (2 Samuel 7:20).

A correct expression of gratitude is consumed with appreciation for received blessings, not the needy requests of an entitled mooch. When Paul commanded the Thessalonians to "*Pray without ceasing*" (1 Thessalonians 5:17), the inspired writer was not encouraging Christians to line up before a divine Santa Claus with our wish lists but, contrary-wise, was commanding a state of being that prioritized gratitude.

That is not to say that God is not concerned with our needs and wishes for us to ask Him for our daily bread (Matthew 6:11), even though he knows our needs before we ask them (Matthew 6:8). What is interesting about the revelation of King David's legacy is the Divine motivation behind it. God blesses us because He wants us to know how much He cares for us. David recognized rightly, "*for Your word's sake, and according to Your own heart, You have done all these great things, to make your servant know them*" (2 Samuel 7:21). Jesus echoed this very idea in sacrificing Himself so we might have hope in His grace and stated: "*Take my yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls*" (Matthew 11:29). Today, try to be thankful and know God.

JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!

SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Class • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study • Contact the minister at 254-370-4130