



# PRACTICING THANKFULNESS

**SERMON SERIES:** Practicing Thankfulness

**SERMON TITLE:** Where are the Nine?

**KEY TEXT (NKJV):** Psalm 107:21-22

**OTHER TEXTS (NKJV):** Luke 17:11-19, Romans 1:20-25, 2 Timothy 3:1-2, Luke 15:22-32, Psalm 100:4-5

**Big Idea:** God sees and values a thankful heart, and He notices when gratitude is absent. Throughout Scripture, we are urged to glorify Him for who He is and for all He has done, because thanksgiving is an act of worship that guards our hearts from pride, entitlement, and the drift toward idolatry. Just as Jesus questioned, “*Where are the nine?*” after healing ten lepers, He still looks for those who will return to give Him thanks. Our response must be intentional; to remember His goodness, declare His works with rejoicing, and cultivate a lifestyle of continual thanks. Like the one healed man who came back to fall at Jesus’ feet, let us choose daily to practice thankfulness, honouring God with our words and actions and refusing the forgetfulness that robs Him of glory.

In this first sermon of the series, Pastor Walker encourages us to cultivate the habit of heartfelt gratitude that glorifies God, protects against pride and entitlement, and reflects His goodness through consistent thanksgiving in word and action.

**Psalm 107:21-22 NKJV**

*Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness,  
And for His wonderful works to the children of men!  
Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving,  
And declare His works with rejoicing.*

God Bless You!

The Connection Groups Office



# PRACTICING THANKFULNESS

***Leader Heads-Up:*** Great leaders don't just count who shows up; they notice who's missing. ***Take attendance faithfully,*** and check in on those absent; ***it's how care becomes real.***

## A. Start Talking: Outreach and Evangelism

"Jesus said, '*The poor will always be with you.*' What do you think He meant by this, and how might it guide the way we care for and reach out to people in our community today?"

## B. Start Thinking

1. Read **Psalm 100:4-5 NKJV**. Share two or three specific things about God that you can thank Him for every day, no matter what is happening around you.
2. Read **Romans 1:21 NLT**. What attitudes, distractions, or life situations often keep you from expressing gratitude to God? What practical steps will you take to keep a thankful heart?
3. Read **Luke 17:11-19 NKJV**. Share about someone who God has used to bless or shape your life, and how you will intentionally reach out this week to thank them and share why you are grateful.

## C. Start Praying

- **Group Prayer:** Pray that you will recognize God's goodness in your life every day, rejecting entitlement, and continually return to Him with a heart full of gratitude for who He is and all He has done. **(Psalm 107:21-22 NKJV)**
- **Pray For the Church:** Thank the Lord for His unfailing love and the wonderful works He has done in our lives, families, and church. May our hearts overflow with gratitude, and may thanksgiving be our lifestyle in every season. **(Psalm 107:21 NIV)**

## D. Start Doing

1. **Identify** specific ways God has shown His goodness and write them down daily as a personal gratitude list.
2. **Reject** feelings of entitlement by intentionally thanking God for even the ordinary blessings you might overlook.
3. **Return** to Jesus in prayer and worship, giving Him glory for answered prayers and unseen protection.
4. **Express** gratitude to someone God has used to impact your life, sharing how their influence reflects His love.

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