

# MESSAGE

Occasion : Thanksgiving Through Firstfruits  
Theme : Able to Do Abundantly with Thanksgiving  
Venue : Lighthouse BBC Tatalon / On Line Live Streaming  
Date : September 20, 2020

**TITLE : OUR REASONS FOR THANKSGIVING**  
Text/s :

1 Thess 5:18

18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.  
KJV

Ps 100:3-5

3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

5 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.  
KJV

Ps 79:13

13 So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: we will shew forth thy praise to all generations.

KJV

Bible Reading :

Ps 100

1 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.

2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

5 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generation  
KJV

Song/s :

- Pag-ibig ni Cristo
- Purihin Siya
- Till the Storm Passes By
- When We See Christ
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Other references :

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## INTRODUCTION

Col 3:17

17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

KJV

1 Thess 5:18

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KJV

Ps 100:3-5

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KJV

Ps 79:13

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KJV

### **We do not give thanks for nothing.**

1 Thess 3:9

9 For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God;

KJV

Ps 97:12

12 Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

KJV

Ps 107:21-22

21 Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

22 And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.

KJV

Ps 116:17-19

17 I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD.

18 I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people,

19 In the courts of the LORD's house, in the midst of thee, O Jerusalem. Praise ye the LORD.

KJV

Isa 51:3

3 For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.

KJV

Col 2:6-7

6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

KJV

1 John 1:1-4

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)  
3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.  
4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.  
KJV

## BODY

Thanksgiving is attached to rejoicing, joy, praise

Joy is attached to love of Christ.

Love of Christ can only be realized if He is in us and we are in Him.

### A) Joy in us is explained by Christ in John 15.

John 15:1-11

1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

4 **Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.**

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 **If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.**

8 **Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.**

9 **As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.**

10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

11 **These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.**

KJV

Observe:

- Without Christ, we cannot bear fruit of ourselves (v 4)
- Without Christ, we can do nothing (v5)
- Without us in Him and His words in us, we cannot ask and expect that what we ask will be done to us (v 7)  
If we dwell in Him and His words dwell in us, we can expect that what we shall ask will be done to us.
- If His words abide in us, and we keep His words, we abide in His love.
- As we abide in His love, we continue in His love.
- Christ spoke these things so that His joy will remain in us and our joy will be full.

Therefore:

- Christ in us means ability in us.
- Christ in us means fruitfulness in us.
- Christ in us should mean His words in us.
- His word in us means we dwell in Him.

- When we dwell in Him, we dwell in His love.
- When we dwell in His love, we continue in His love.
- These are all the things that give us joy. These are what gives us full joy.

**B) Explained by Paul his letter to the Ephesian church.**

He prayed for the Ephesian church the following:

Eph 3:17-21

17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,  
 18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;  
 19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

KJV

Observe that all of what Christ had said are in what Paul told the Ephesian church...

- That Christ may dwell in them
- That they may dwell in Christ and be rooted, grounded in His love. That they may know and comprehend the love of Christ, it's breadth, length, depth and height
- The they may have the fullness of God (fullness of joy).
- Given this, God will make them able to do exceeding abundantly above all they ask or think.

Observe further:

Eph 4:11-16

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

KJV

- That the word may dwell in them.
- As the word dwell in them, dwell in the love of Christ and grow therein in love.

Eph 3:20-21

20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

KJV

**But before we can be able to do exceeding abundantly with thanksgiving, what comes first?**

Observe...

Eph 3:17-19

17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,  
18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

KJV

Ironically for the Ephesian church, Paul writes,

Eph 4:20-25

20 But ye have not so learned Christ;

21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

KJV

Then, he also told them,

Acts 20:35-36

35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, **It is more blessed to give than to receive.**

36 And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down, and prayed with them all.

KJV

**Can this be connected to the rebuke of the Lord in Rev?**

Rev 2:4-5

4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

KJV

### C) Joy is cited by Paul to be present in the Macedonian churches.

They were churches who learned Christ

2 Cor 8:1-5

1 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;

2 **How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.**

3 For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves;

4 Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

5 And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.

KJV

2 Cor 8:1-5

1 Now, brothers, we must tell you about the grace God has given the congregations in Macedonia.

2 **Despite severe trials, and even though they are desperately poor, their joy has overflowed in a wealth of generosity.**

3 I tell you they have not merely given according to their means, but of their own free will they have given beyond their means.

4 They begged and pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service for God's people.  
5 Also, they didn't do this in the way we had expected, but first they gave themselves to the Lord, which means, by God's will, to us.  
CJB

2 Cor 8:2-3

**2 Despite severe trials, and even though they are desperately poor, their joy has overflowed in a wealth of generosity.**

CJB

2 Cor 8:9

9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

KJV

### 1) They had full joy.

Joy that resulted to a thanksgiving. Joy that made them generous. Their joy overflowed with generosity.

And these are all the ingredients of joy.

Joy in us means thanksgiving in us.

Thanksgiving in us is generosity.

The firstfruit of this joy is generosity.

Phil 4:4-19

4 Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.

5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.

11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

14 Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.

15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.

16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.

17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

KJV

### 2) They had the love of Christ.

Phil 1:9-11

9 And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;  
10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;

11 Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

KJV

### 3) They learned Christ.

**They had the indwelling Christ and they dwelt in Him.**

**They had the mind of Christ. God performed in them.**

Phil 2:5-8

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

KJV

Phil 2:13-16

13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

KJV

## CONCLUSION

Reasons for Thanksgiving

Christ in us.

The love of Christ in us.

The joy of Christ in us.

To have joy is to be thankful

To be thankful is to be generous

Gal 5:22-23

22 **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,**  
23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

KJV

1 Peter 1:8-9

8 **Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:**

9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

KJV

John 15:1-11

1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

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19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

KJV

## THANKSGIVING THROUGH FIRSTFRUITS RECITATION

Our Heavenly Father, in the Name of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, we come to You in Praise and in Thanksgiving for Who You are and What You are to us, Your people.

You have made us to be Your people through Jesus Christ. We are in You because of Your Son. He is in us and Your Spirit abide in us. And through His word, we abide in Your love.

As we dwell in Christ and as His word dwells in us, we become rooted and grounded in His love. In turn, we are held by such love as we comprehend with all members of Lighthouse BBC the breadth, length, depth and height of the love of Christ, and we are filled with the fullness of Your Own self with the joy of the Holy Ghost.

Let then the abundance of this joy turn into the riches of liberality in us; that while we go through pains and trials caused by the challenges in this period of pandemic, we have the willingness in our selves to come before You with this Thanksgiving Through Firstfruits.

Let the fruit of the Spirit in us be manifested through this Thanksgiving Through Firstfruits. And let this thanksgiving be an odor of sweet smell before You, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing before You sight.

May as You are pleased with this work of faith, You will then supply all our need according to the riches in glory by Christ Jesus. That as we dwell in You, and Your word dwells in us, we shall ask what we will, and it shall be done according to Your will.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

### Pastor's Response

As a church of the Lord Jesus Christ, we have all and abound. As we we honor God today with "an odor of sweet smell, a thanksgiving sacrifice, acceptable, well-pleasing to God," He "shall supply all our need, according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:18-19). He shall make our "barns to be filled with plenty and our presses to burst out with new wine" (Prov 3:10).

Let the "thanksgiving of many today redound to the glory of God" (2 Cor 4:15).