

Giving Thanks for God's Mighty Deeds

Psalm 145:4–7

November 10, 2024

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Are you a born again Christian? Jesus said that we must be born again. To be born again is have a spiritual birth believing Jesus lived, died, and rose from the dead to forgive your sins. This is a fact, that if you trust Jesus you are born again. Since you are born again you are in the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God dwells within you. Jesus said that we should repent because the Kingdom of God is near. Some people who are born again don't recognize that they are Kingdom people. But this is the truth that if you trust Jesus are a Kingdom person.

I mention this because Born Again, Kingdom People do two things. First, they live for Jesus. Everyday of their lives are directed toward thinking, saying, and doing what will bring glory to Jesus. The second thing is they share the grace of Jesus. They give grace to people who don't deserve it. Every day we receive grace from Jesus. Every day Born Again, Kingdom People who are living for Jesus give His grace to the people they encounter.

November is the giving thanks month. As Born Again, Kingdom People Living like Jesus, Sharing His Grace we are leaders in being grateful and thankful. We are thankful that He is our Good Shepherd. We are thankful that He is the doer of mighty deeds.

One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works. They will tell of the power of your awesome works, and I will proclaim your great deeds. They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.
Psalm 145:4–7 (NIV)

Every Christian family has stories to tell of God's mighty deeds. We begin with God's mighty deed of salvation. We aren't a Christian family if Jesus isn't Savior and Lord. So, we have that story to tell about our own lives. We can be thankful for the people in our families who helped us turn to Jesus. We can give thanks each day for the God's mighty act of saving us.

Our salvation in Jesus has saved us from the punishment and the power of sin. Jesus supplies us with all that we need for each day. Jesus has also empowered us to do mighty deeds in His name. Jesus has given to us eternal life in heaven. This salvation is ours, but it is also for every person. Jesus died and rose from the dead to save anyone who believes in Him. Salvation is not limited to people in one generation, or one nation, or one ethnic group. The mighty deed of rising from the dead, providing salvation for all people is God's greatest mighty deed. Every generation needs to know about God's mighty deed of salvation. Every person needs Jesus.

We have the stories of the God's works in the Bible. Noah and the ark is more than the story of a flood. It is God removing evil and saving those who were faithful. Moses and Pharaoh, the plagues, the Passover meal, crossing the Red Sea, and the giving of the Law are monumental events. It is God raising up a people to worship and serve Him alone. David and Goliath is not just a shepherd boy killing a giant warrior, but is God empowering an individual who trusts Him. Jonah and the big fish is more than one man in the belly of a fish. It is God saving sinners while giving grace to one stubborn

individual. The miracles of Jesus: healing those who were crippled, blind, diseased, and possessed by demons were not only because of grace, but of His power to transform people.

We have the glory of nature all around us. Elohim, the strong God who creates, made all things. So, to admire the changing of the seasons is to admire God. To give thanks for the sunrise and the sunset is giving thanks to God our creator. To be in awe of a newborn child is to hold in awe the giver of life. To stand on the plains and look at the fields of grain is to recognize the giver of all good things. To be on the mountain top and admire the valley below or to be in the valley and admire the mountains is to see the finger of God at work.

Yahweh, the God who created us for a relationship with Him has given us all things as a testimony of His love and provision for us. So, when we look at the caterpillar, then the butterfly we know God is at work. As we walk among the trees, smell the aroma of nature, and look upon each creature we become aware of God's provisions. While we look upon the stars in the sky we are made aware of how God has an awesome reach.

We are blessed with the ways God has been working daily in our lives. There are no accidents or coincidences. Our God is working in and through all things. Our Savior is the giver of all things good. Our Lord is using all things for good. These are the mighty deeds of God. We can celebrate them each day. We can tell of His mighty deeds to another generation.

They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works. Psalm 145:5 (NIV)

It's possible the church has lost two generations and maybe a third. When I shared at my brother-in-law's funeral I was aware that Lonie and I, along with one or two others were the only regular church attenders. I don't want to make judgments on the salvation of others, but I was certainly aware of a lack of Christian understanding. I shared that the only hope for the living when they die is faith in Jesus.

I think Lonie and I were the oldest people there. This included at least four generations younger than us. I'm part of the boomer generation born between 1946 and 1964. There were siblings who are part of Generation X born between 1965-1980. Then next two generations were the millennials born between 1995-2009 followed by their children. Those two youngest generations were the vast majority of people attending this funeral. Without being judgmental, I'm not sure how many of them knew Jesus as their Savior and Lord. I felt the reality that the church has failed them. I was keenly aware that the church has thus far lost them.

I shared the love of Jesus Christ. My prayer is that they would know the height and depth, width and length of God's love for them in Jesus Christ. As I can remember their names I pray for them each day. I don't want any one of them to be lost and not receive the mercy, grace, and love of Jesus. I want them to be in heaven.

There is a generational breakdown in the church today. Sixty-six percent of traditionalists, that is U.S. adults born before 1946, belong to a church. But fifty-eight percent of baby boomers (46-64) belong to a church. Then only fifty percent of those in Generation X (65-80) belong to a church. So that brings us to millennials(95-09) and thirty-sixty percent belong to a church. This information was gathered by Gallup Poll, March 29, 2021 and doesn't include church attendance. Regular church attendance is now measured as once a month. All of you are remarkable and exceptional. You are better

representatives than the many in your generation who aren't attending a church once a month. I give thanks for you each day and throughout my day. I pray that you will love God with all your heart, soul, spirit, mind and strength. I pray that you will love your neighbor as yourself.

We look at our own church membership and recognize that there are over one hundred members of this congregation who aren't attending this church. We have many missing generations. So, I got to thinking about the generations and recognized that thirty-four percent of old people need Jesus. Also, forty-two percent of nearly old people need Jesus. That means that fifty percent of middle aged people need Jesus. Which brings us to sixty-four percent of young people need Jesus.

Is giving thanks and sharing the mighty works of God enough? Yes. It is the only way. When we speak God's name we give another generation something to consider. Even if they have heard His name, but don't know Him, they can now learn something new. For those who haven't heard the name of Jesus, Savior of the world, they now have an opportunity to understand and see His love, grace, and mercy in action.

Declaring God's glory, proclaiming His majesty, giving thanks demonstrates to another generation that they are not alone in this world. They are given the possibility for hope and power in their lives.

They will tell of the power of your awesome works, and I will proclaim your great deeds. Psalm 145:6 (NIV)

When we share God's mighty deeds we open the door to transforming faith. People who don't know what God has done and what God can do will continue doing what they have always done. I don't think this is acceptable. We have stories of God's salvation, God's handiwork all around us, and God's work in our own lives. We can't keep this for ourselves. Other people need what we have. Other people need Jesus. It's insanity for the generations around us to continue to make the same mistakes when there is the way of Jesus.

Living without Jesus is crazy. No matter how much people act like they're okay, they are living a crazy life. No one was created to live without Jesus. The greatness of our God is that we were created to be in a relationship with Him.

The definition of crazy, at least for me, is to do something different than your purpose. It's crazy to go through life without hope, peace, power, and joy. Without these things any person will go crazy. It's insanity for us to think that they will follow Jesus if they don't know about His mighty works. Just as crazy as people living without Jesus is people not hearing about Jesus. For too long Christians have kept Jesus to themselves. For too long Christians have acted crazy by making our faith a private matter.

From one generation to another talk about your God who is awesome. From one generation to another tell of His great deeds.

What might happen to the billions of people if they came to know the God who does mighty things? Insanity will be less of a problem. There would be fewer people doing crazy things. Honestly though, if people knew the God of mighty deeds they would pray for mighty deeds. We do that don't we? We pray for healing. We pray for transformed lives. We pray for our world to change.

If people knew the God of mighty deeds they would stop living for themselves and start living Him. They would seek their highest calling, to glorify Him. They would choose His plans over their own. They would follow His purposes. They would love one another.

If people knew the God of mighty deeds they would rejoice, give thanks, and praise Him. They would want others to know the love, grace, and mercy of their God. They would tell of His majesty and splendor. They would share His compassion, His hope, and His power. They would be gentle, kind, and patient with others.

If people knew the God of mighty deeds they would want others to be in heaven. Imagine the new heaven and the earth filled with people of every generation. Imagine people of every generation outnumbering the generation before them. Imagine heaven being filled with young and old alike. Imagine the people in heaven.

We can rejoice in God's mighty deeds. We can rejoice in the transforming power of Jesus.

They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness. Psalm 145:7 (NIV)

Make it your goal to share God's mighty deeds with every generation. Pick someone in your own generation and talk about God's mighty deeds. I've talked about everyone of us being a mentor. Mentors are Christians who encourage, comfort, and hold others accountable. We do this best in one to one situations. But we can also do this in group or family situations. You may have identified someone or several people to mentor. If you haven't I'm still encouraging you to do so.

Right now I'm asking that you look for someone who is in your generation. You are probably going to have more in common with someone in your generation than in another generation. As you offer encouragement talk about the mighty things God has done. As you comfort talk about the mighty things God has done. As you hold them accountable talk about the mighty things God has done. God has done something mighty in your life. God is doing something mighty through all of nature. God has done something mighty in the life of a common friend or family member.

Pick someone in any generation but your own and share the majesty and power of the Lord. I'm inspired by God being greater and more wonderful than me. If I'm the measuring stick than the standard is pretty low. But, since the measuring stick is the majesty and power of Jesus that's extremely motivating. Aren't you awestruck by how God is working to bring good out of bad situations? Aren't you strengthened by the God who comes to your rescue and delivers you from your own mistakes? This is a majestic God. This is the God who is worthy of praise, adoration, and thanks. This is what people in every generation need to hear. Don't be put off by talking to somebody who is older or younger than you. Through your love for Jesus all you are doing is sharing His grace.

Always be ready to share salvation through Jesus Christ. There is no other way to receive God's grace than to believe Jesus lived and died and rose from the dead. There is no other way to live like Jesus than to trust Him to take away your sins. There is no other way to be in His Kingdom than to turn your life over to Jesus. There is no other way to be born again than to accept the love of God in Jesus. Everyone needs to know this. Everyone needs Jesus.