

**Topic:** Gratitude to a Great God  
**Text:** **Hebrews 12:28-29 (NIV)**  
**Theme:** “Give our great God gratitude for His goodness”

## INTRODUCTION

- There was a kid whose poverty became his bitter-better friend. An empty table was a common sight, three meals a day was a luxury. To escape hunger, he always dreamed to find money or catch fish under the house for food.
- Later in life, he learned to always grab every opportunity and used it as a springboard. Time flew... he finished primary, graduated high school, completed a degree as a top student.
- His past, bitter life became his better friend, it taught him to always exert his best shot, when perfection is unreachable.
- When he became a Christian, he always aimed to give His best for the Master--his way to show gratitude to a great God.
- Just look around! His fingerprint is etched everywhere: His blessings, forgiveness, healing, protection, and opportunity. The question is: How do we express gratitude to God's blessings?

### I. BY THANKING GOD

*V28b ... let us be thankful ...*

#### A. Thank God in any language.

1. The word “thank” comes from the same root as the modern German “danke”.
2. All the derivative words of “thank” such as: thanked, thankful, thankfulness, thanking, thanks, thanksgiving, thankworthy appeared 138 x in the Bible; that is about 2x per book of the Bible.
3. It is “Ta” for Vanuatu, Australian, and in Texas (informal). “Ty” for Filipinos; “cheers” in New Zealand and Midland England; “gracias” in Spanish; “thanks ya” in informal Indonesian; “aha/aho” in Iowa (US) by women/men; “thank ye” in Scotland; and “shukriya/danyavad” in India.

**B. Thank God in all sizes. (Ephesians 5:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:18)**

- We don't thank God for any misfortunes that befell us, but we thank Him INSPITE of any disaster.

**C. Thank God as much as we can.**

- E.g. we thank God for the air breathe. If we need to pay government levy for the oxygen we inhale in (say, 1 cent per minute, it will be 60 cents an hour, \$14.40 a day, \$100.50 a week, \$5,200 a year, \$400,000 for a life span of 80 years.)

**II. BY WORSHIPPING GOD**

V28c ... and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe ...

... where we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. (KJV)

... offer to God pleasing service and acceptable worship. (Amplified)

**A. Worshipping is the best way to serve God.**

1. Worship and serve are synonymous words.
2. Both the Hebrew *aboda* and the Greek *latreia* originally signified the labor of slaves or hired servants. Therefore, the concept of worship in the Bible is serving God.
3. You may be surprised to realize that the entire Sunday Service is about worshipping God. Our heart gives worship to God as we raise our hands and bow down before Him.
4. Who is the receiver of the sermon? (Congregation) Who is the receiver of worship? (God)
5. So, Sunday Service is all about worship first and foremost; the Word of God as we know is only secondary.

## **B. Worship God acceptably with reverence.**

1. The word "reverence" is *aidos* in Greek which is used only in 1 Timothy 2:9: (ASV). In like manner, women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefastness (shamefacedness in KJV) and sobriety (moderation) not with braided hair, and gold or pearls or costly raiment.
2. "Aidos" means sense of shame or honour; regard for others; respect; reverence; self-restraint, modesty or bashfulness toward men, not being bold or forward, with admiration.
3. Calvin Coolidge once said, "It is only when men begin to worship that they begin to grow."

## **III. BY PRAISING/(BLESSING) GOD (DEUT 8:10)**

*V10 When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.*

*When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which he hath given thee. (KJV)*

### **A. Meaning of praise**

1. Expression of approval, commendation, or admiration, commonly expressed as "Halleluyah."
2. Meaning of Halleluyah: It is composed of Hebrew word "hallel" meaning "praise"; 'u' second person plural; "Yah" for God or Yahweh (as in Jehovah). The verb "hallel" is an imperative verb (command to do something). In this case, someone is saying: "You, praise God."

### **B. Difference between praise and worship**

1. Praise is part of our worship of the Almighty God. (Worship involves more than praise.)
2. Praise is done in response to God's blessings to us; worship is done in reaction God's character/ attribute.
3. Praise is "shallow" while worship is "deeper;" hence, praise is usually louder than worship. **Praise is the**

**expression of the mouth, while worship is the expression of the heart.**

4. Praise involves body parts like clapping of the hands, “noisy” mouth, extended hands, dancing, loud instruments; worship involves the heart and spirit.
5. Praise is much like children bragging about their parents to their playmates for buying them toys (cleaning their rooms, washing their clothes); worship is much like respecting their parents, say for being Christians.

**C. Praise the Lord for His goodness**

*V10 When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.*

- Praise the Lord for anything—positive or negative. (Rom 8:28)