

Message Summary: This being Thanksgiving, it's an appropriate time to grow our own grateful hearts. Even in light of so much discouraging news surrounding us, we can still be thankful people. We all get caught up in negativity at times. The reason God commands thankfulness is because it is connected to HIM! Thanksgiving gets our eyes back on Him where they belong. Painful circumstances pull our focus and attention off God and on to a problem. Choosing to be thankful places our eyes back on the character of God where we find our help and joy.

Grow a Grateful Heart **Turning a Negative to Positive**

- 1. Gratitude is God's will for your life - 1 Thessalonians 5:18**

- 2. Gratitude is a choice not an emotion - Psalm 50:14**

- 3. Gratitude makes us a witness to others - Philippians 2:14-15**
 - A. When we complain we damage our witness to the world**
 - Complaining doesn't care about people. Complaining tears people down.
 - Complaining is self-centered. It's all about how I feel.
 - Complaining doesn't want to help correct the problem.
 - Complaining always lays blame on others for the problem. (Fault finders)
 - Complaining never sees God in the circumstances. (Hopeless attitude)

- 4. Gratitude effects what we experience with God - Psalm 50:23**

Discussion QUESTIONS: *All LifeGroups on Holiday Break*

OPEN IT (15min) - Discuss the challenge of maintaining an attitude of gratitude in this negative world we live in.

EXPLORE IT (60min) – Review Sunday's sermon outline and answer the following questions:

1. Why is our gratitude anchored in who God is?
2. How is gratitude a choice not an emotion? How do we make this choice?
3. How does our attitude influence our witness for Jesus in this world?
4. How does gratitude influence what I experience with God?

APPLY IT (15min) - How are you going to embrace gratitude the next time you want to complain?