



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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Thanksgiving: A Season of Gratitude and Compassion for the Less Fortunate

Thanksgiving is more than just a day of feasting — it's a divine opportunity to reflect God's generosity and show His love to those in need. For Christians, this season should focus less on indulgence and more on gratitude, service, and compassion. The Bible and the writings of Ellen G. White remind us that true thanksgiving isn't just spoken — it's demonstrated through acts of kindness and mercy.

1. Thanksgiving as a Reflection of the Heart

The Psalmist declares, "O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever" (Psalm 107:1). Gratitude is the foundation of true worship. When we acknowledge God as the source of every blessing—our food, health, family, and faith—we cultivate a spirit of humility and thankfulness. This attitude naturally flows into generosity toward others.

Ellen G. White wrote, "Every blessing bestowed upon us calls for a

response to the Giver. We are to be channels of blessing to others" (Christ's Object Lessons, p. 301). The Thanksgiving season, therefore, should be a time when our hearts are moved to share what we have received with those who have less.

2. Sharing Our Table and Our Time

Many families gather around abundant tables each November, but countless individuals face hunger and loneliness. The Bible commands, "When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed" (Luke 14:13-14). Genuine gratitude is demonstrated not in how much we consume but in how much we give.

Ellen G. White urged believers to remember the poor and suffering during times of festivity: "While you feast at your bountiful table, remember that there are those who are hungry and in need. Let a portion of your abundance be shared with them" (*The Adventist Home*, p. 480). Organizing community meals, donating food baskets, or visiting shelters transforms Thanksgiving into a sacred mission of love.



3. Acts of Service as an Offering of Praise

Thanksgiving should motivate Christians to act—to clothe the cold, feed the hungry, and comfort the lonely. Isaiah's call resonates clearly: "Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and to bring the homeless poor into your house?" (Isaiah 58:7). When we serve others, we honor God much more than through words alone.

Ellen G. White beautifully stated, "The purest joy springs from rendering service to others and doing deeds of kindness" (*Steps to Christ*, p. 80). Every act of compassion—whether small or significant—becomes an offering of thanksgiving to God.

4. A Season to Reflect on God's Faithfulness

Beyond food and fellowship, Thanksgiving should prompt believers to reflect on God's past mercies and future promises. Just as Israel celebrated harvest festivals in gratitude for God's provision, we should remember His guidance throughout the year. Sharing testimonies of deliverance, answered prayers, and blessings helps foster faith and unity among families and within the church.

5. Living Thanksgiving Every Day

True thanksgiving isn't limited to a single day but becomes a way of life. Gratitude should be the Christian's daily language, expressed through prayer, actions, and love.

In conclusion, celebrating Thanksgiving as a Christian means making gratitude visible, feeding the hungry, comforting the sorrowful, and lifting the fallen. When we do this, we mirror Christ's character, who gave Himself so that we might have life. This season, let our tables overflow not only with food but with compassion, our homes echo with prayer, and our hearts overflow with praise.



"If we would but think of God as often as we have evidence of His care, we should keep Him ever in our thoughts, and we should have something to say in praise of Him and for His wonderful works"

Ellen G. White (*Steps to Christ*, p. 102)