

The Exchanger

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THE NEWSLETTER
OF
**FELLOWSHIP
BIBLE CHURCH
WHITE ROCK**

*The
Mission
of
FBCWR:
To present the Lord Jesus
Christ: His work
on the
cross
and
His in-
dwelling
power
to meet
man's
needs.*

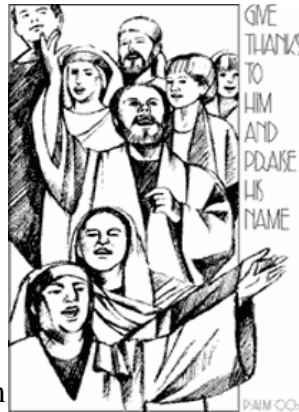
*O come, let us sing for joy
to the Lord, Let us shout
joyfully to the rock of our
salvation. Let us come
before His presence with
thanksgiving, Let us
shout joyfully to Him
with psalms. For the
Lord is a great God and a
great King above all
gods.*

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The Explosive Power of Praise

We kickoff the “holiday” season just as folks have done every year since Squanto. You know the song. So OK everyone, all together now - “*We have so much to be thankful for.*” The danger with this repeated reminder is that if our hearts are not tender, a film of indifference can form over our “thanker”. We know we should feel grateful - by any logical measure we’re incredibly blessed and we should jump at this seasonal emphasis. But what if we find ourselves responding, “Yeah, yeah, blah, blah, blah, yadda, yadda, yadda”? How do we maintain, or even regain, the freshness of a tender, thankful heart that loves the Lord? 3 suggestions:



1) Consider the “big picture”.

Bottom line: God would be entirely justified to instantly reduce us to an anthill because of our multitude of sins. We are fortunate that He has allowed us to breathe another year, another day, last second. His mercy is multiplied to us and He is worthy of waves of praise. The best part: He delights in you and me and gladly paid the steep price to set us free from our sin. Romans 5:8 says it so well, “*God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*”

2) Be content with what God has already done.

Christmas casts a considerable

shadow over Thanksgiving. Perhaps the greatest impact of Thanksgiving in our culture today, not counting waist size, is that it is the launch date of the Christmas shopping season. We might be caught gazing up the chimney by mid-November, craving a little Yuletide treat. Perhaps we dream of a material thing like a new car, that big Christmas

bonus or a new dining set. Wait, did I say dining set, I meant vacuum cleaner (sorry guys, careless seed planting there, wasn’t it?).

Paul tells us the big secret of thankfulness is being content with what He has already given - whether a lot or a little. “*I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need*” (Philippians 4:12-13).

3) **Learn thankful praise which frees up the soul.** What did David do to pull himself out of life’s ruts? Psalms 43:5 - “*Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why are you disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.* He praised God. He says many times in the Psalms - “*I will praise God*”. The New Testament calls praise a sacrifice. Our