

Give Thanks

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Andy Stanley

Scripture: Luke 17:12–19

Idea: Unexpressed gratitude is ingratitude by another name. It's not enough to feel it. You have to express it.

Introduction

[Hi everybody! Welcome back. Happy Thanksgiving... a few days late. I hope you had an opportunity to celebrate with friends and family. For several years, a friend of mine and I would get up early on Thanksgiving morning and participate in the Atlanta Half Marathon. Notice I didn't say "run" the Atlanta Half Marathon. Some years we ran, but sometimes we just participated. The great thing about starting off Thanksgiving with a long run is guiltless eating all day long. That was years ago. These days, it's just guiltless eating all day.]

[If you know anything about the history of Thanksgiving, you know it began as a small community's response, then was a colonial response, and eventually became our nation's response to divine provision and protection. Gratitude or...]

Feeling Thankful

[... is a universal experience. When good things happen, or we're on the back side of a rough stretch, there's an instinctive, intuitive, and automatic feeling of gratitude.]

(Optional Introduction)

[Here's something we all have in common. When good things happen, or we're on the back side of a rough stretch, there's an instinctive, intuitive, automatic feeling of gratitude. We are grateful, and there's a sense of relief.]

Feeling Thankful

... is a universal experience.]

[Some folks say, "Thank goodness." Others say, "Thank God!" We thank somebody or something. We're all instinctively thankful, though we may express it in different ways. It's almost like we can't help it.]

