

## A HEART OF THANKSGIVING AND WORSHIP

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*Note, this article was written and shared with my Christian brothers and sisters in Oct. 2017.*

Stating the obvious, Thanksgiving (i.e., the holiday season) is looming on the horizon. Given this, I want to focus the first part of this article on those aspects of my life that I am thankful for, then help you (if needed) to regain a similar perspective.

I've found lately that with life's busy-ness that I started to complain about this or that due to crammed schedules and getting "stretched thin." As I started reflecting on my life I can see that I'm quite blessed of the Lord, and have nothing of any significance to complain about. For example:

*I'm thankful that My Lord came to earth to pay for My Sins; something that He did not have to do, but He did and He is forever interceding with The Father on my and your behalf.*

*I'm thankful that I have the Holy Spirit as my counselor as I strive under His guidance to live as Christ did.*

*I'm thankful for Marina, my wife, my soul mate, my partner and God-given treasure.*

*I'm thankful for my girls, their husbands and our seven grandkids.*

*I'm thankful for my Christian brothers and sisters.*

*I'm thankful for God's provision: great job, home, things, etc.*

Changing the subject, a little, but not really ... do you have any spiritual regime that helps you to stay foundationally grounded in the Lord? For me it is listening to, meditating on, and participating in praise and worship music. Praise and worship music draws me quickly into the Lord's presence.

Nehemiah (ref. Nehemiah 12:24-26) shows us a picture of how the Levites (the worship leaders in the temple) led the people to worship God in spirit and in truth. They sang the psalms of David from memory, back and forth to each other, their music an offering to God. They praised Him for bringing them to Jerusalem by His power alone. They shouted praise songs of *thanksgiving* that likely would outdo any vocal concert we would hear today. The worship of the one true God was exactly what Israel was created to do.

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We were made to worship. Worship pulls us into the large and spacious world of our Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Worship goes on in heaven continuously, honoring the Lamb who was slain for our salvation. Let's join the heavenly choir by singing praise and *thanksgiving* to the Lord. "Make a joyful sound to the Lord (ref. Ps. 100:1)," and witness too how your perspective on life will change.

*David L. Hamil*  
*Co-founder and Ministry Lead*  
*2 Hearts for Integrity Ministries*