

Fresh Oil



October 2018

Dear Fellow Servants,

October is a beautiful time of the year as the hot, humid days of summer give way to the cooler, crisp days of autumn. The fields that were green with growing crops have ripened, yielding the precious produce of the land. It is the wonderful season of Thanksgiving!

What are you thankful for, anyway? Gratitude is a powerful response of a child of God to the presence and work of the Lord in their life. It is the acknowledgement that all we have has come from God and He is worthy of our praise and thanksgiving. I want you to consider what David prayed in Psalm 86:11-12:

***"Teach me Your way, O Lord my God; I will walk in
Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name.
I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
And I will glorify Your name forevermore."***

The heart of David displays humility, recognizing the need for God to direct his way and draw him closer to Himself. A thankful attitude is key to walking in humility, as it prepares the ground of the heart to receive from the Lord's hand what He has for us. A terrific example of this is found in the life of David Livingstone, the great missionary to Africa. On the threshold of his return there on December 4, 1857, he tried to put into words the motives that shaped his life:

"I personally have never ceased to rejoice that God has entrusted me with His service. People talk a lot about the sacrifice involved in devoting my life to Africa. But can this be called a sacrifice at all if we give back to God 'a little of what we owe Him?' And we owe Him so much that we shall never Be able to pay off our debt. Can that be called sacrifice which gives us the deepest satisfaction, which develops our best powers, and gives us the greatest hopes and expectations? Away with this word. It is anything but a sacrifice. Rather, call it a privilege."

It is easy to get caught up with thinking that our service to God is a sacrifice, when all along He has blessed us far more than we could ever imagine. This Thanksgiving let's spend some time thinking about the deep satisfaction of being a child of God and thank Him for this wonderful privilege!

Your fellow servant,

Pastor Brian

... I have been anointed with fresh oil

PSALM 92:10

