

Empire Church of the Brethren
Sunday Service Sermons

16 November 2025

Being Thankful for God's Word

Isn't the Bible Amazing!

It is alive for it is the Living Word of God.

I hope you have discovered this truth.

I am constantly amazed at how the Word of God, Our precious Scriptures meet our present need and verses jump out and have meaning relevant to the moment.

You can read a verse many times, you can memorize a verse but then in a particular moment it has new and special meaning to your present situation.

That is because it is the Living Word of God.

It is the medicine you need at the moment that you need it.

How wonderful is that?

A minister once told a joke about a local news editor who had invited his readers to send in responses under the heading "Books That Have Helped Me."

One of the responses was from an individual who stated that the most helpful books in her life had been her mother's cookbook and her father's checkbook.

I now have one of Kathy's cookbooks close by when I cook.

I know she used it often because it has the imprint of a stove top burner seared into it.

Many books help us, but one book alone has life-changing power.

The source of life itself may be found in the Word of God.

Listen for his voice.

The writer of *Psalms 106* remembered God's salvation and interpreted the Exodus experience, recounting the spiritual high of the children of Israel.

They had given thanks, observed the mighty things of God, celebrated his salvation, and stepped back as he opened the sea.

They were high spiritually but soon forgot to be thankful enough to apply God's words to them.

What happened?

They believed his words.

When commenting on *Psalms 106*, Charles Spurgeon noted that it was not to the Israelites credit but to their shame that they believed.

Who would not have believed the facts staring them in the face.

Remember the words of Jesus: "Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many people saw the miraculous signs he was doing and believed in his name. But Jesus would not entrust himself to them."

Simply to believe God's Word is not enough.

A student may believe in an upcoming exam, but unless he prepares for it, what good is that belief?

The problem of the children of Israel was that they believed God but were unwilling to understand him and apply his Word.

They had forgotten to be thankful.

How did it happen?

They forgot his works and did not wait for his counsel.

Note the strong *Hebrew* language of *verse 13*.

"But they soon forgot what he had done and did not wait for his counsel."

They forgot God's works.
How easy it is to forget your health when you have it.
You may forget a good friend until you lose them.
You may forget your family members until you need them.
The children of Israel did not wait for God's counsel.
These people did good things, not bad things.
But they neglected to recall the things God had done.
They did not wait for his counsel.
The term counsel comes from a Chaldean word that means "The power of restraint."
They had forgotten the correcting power of God's words.
They wanted inspiration, not transformation.
Someone has written that the world's most critical shortage may be silence.
We do not meditate on God's Word enough.
The life of the Reformation came from men like Luther and Calvin who studied their Bibles.
Periods of renewal in the church come when the church takes seriously the admonition to search the
the
Scriptures.
Like the children of Israel, we believe God easily.
But do we pause to listen to his counsel?
When we are not thankful enough to wait, the results may be devastating.
What a sad commentary one finds in *Psalms 106:15*: "And he gave them their request; but sent
leanness into their soul."
Picture an emaciated, spiritually anemic person.
He or she believes the Word of God but fails to respond.
Belief without thankful, thoughtful practice cannot suffice.
The best book is the Bible.
It will change your life.
Do not simply believe it, live it.
Do not simply hold it cherish it.
Do not only read it understand it and live it.
Be thankful for God's Word.
It is the power and advice you need to live a life for God and neighbor.