



# BY STREAMS OF LIVING WATER

*A Six-Part Worship Series on the Psalms*

6. Giving Thanks

Pastor David Flowers

# Sermon Series Focus

For the most profound and enduring prayers of all time, both Christians and Jews look to the Psalms.

These timeless writings become our words when we have none. With vivid word pictures that capture our imagination, and in the beautiful artistry of the language, we will discover that the Psalms are empowering for faith as we learn to sing and pray them together in sincere devotion to God.

# Sermon Series Purpose

- Deepen our individual and corporate prayer lives through the reading and study of the Psalms, as well as expand our appreciation for biblical literature
- Understand and experience a wider variety of personal and corporate prayer (e.g. desire, praise, confession, lament, justice, thanksgiving, etc.)
- Rediscover the power of faith that is not meant to be solely expressed intellectually, but emotionally as well; seeing that music, art, ritual, and passion are holy

# *By Streams of Living Water*

1. Soul Thirst (desire & longing)
2. Duty & Delight (praise & gratitude)
3. Clean Hearts (confession & renewal)
4. Tears of Lament (disorientation & lament)
5. Rains of Justice (vengeance & vindication)
6. **Giving Thanks** (thanksgiving & hope)

# Giving Thanks

- In this series we've been invited to expand our communion with God through honest prayer that expresses the full range of human emotions (praise, lament, anger, etc.)
- While the psalmists understood they could cry out and vent to God, they also knew the importance of thanksgiving for those who want a healthy body and soul
- Being thankful is about remembering what God has done, but it also involves being hopeful about the future
- In this final message, we give thanks with the psalmists and we're reminded that in Christ we have a living hope that allows us to experience peace and salvation in the present

## **Psalm 107:1-3 NIV**

- <sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.
- <sup>2</sup> Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story—  
those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,
- <sup>3</sup> those he gathered from the lands,  
from east and west, from north and south.

## Psalm 107:4-9 NIV

<sup>4</sup> Some wandered in desert wastelands,  
finding no way to a city where they could settle.

<sup>5</sup> They were hungry and thirsty,  
and their lives ebbed away.

<sup>6</sup> Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble,  
and he delivered them from their distress.

<sup>7</sup> He led them by a straight way  
to a city where they could settle.

<sup>8</sup> Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love  
and his wonderful deeds for mankind,

<sup>9</sup> for he satisfies the thirsty  
and fills the hungry with good things.

“Gratitude calls us away from the modern illusion of self-sufficiency: Thus the message is diametrically opposed to what much of North American culture teaches people. In modern culture, maturity is often measured by how self-sufficient we are. We are taught that we earn what we have; we are taught that we must pull ourselves up by our bootstraps when we are down; we are taught that wisdom is getting ahead in whatever way we can manage without getting caught; we are taught that our security results from careful planning, investment, and management. In short, we are taught to be self-made persons – no need to cry to God for help, and consequently no need to thank God for anything. Seldom, if ever, does it occur to us that human life depends on God. Thus the message of Psalm 107 is simple but radical: There is ultimately no such thing as self-sufficiency, for human life depends on God.”

Walter Brueggemann, *Psalms* (NCBC) pgs. 467-468



## Psalm 118:14-17 NIV

<sup>14</sup> The LORD is my strength and my defense;  
he has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup> Shouts of joy and victory  
resound in the tents of the righteous:  
“The LORD’s right hand has done mighty things!  
<sup>16</sup> The LORD’s right hand is lifted high;  
the LORD’s right hand has done mighty things!”

<sup>17</sup> I will not die but live,  
and will proclaim what the LORD has done.

## **Psalm 118:18-21 NIV**

<sup>18</sup> The LORD has chastened me severely,  
but he has not given me over to death.

<sup>19</sup> Open for me the gates of the righteous;  
I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.

<sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the LORD  
through which the righteous may enter.

<sup>21</sup> I will give you thanks, for you answered me;  
you have become my salvation.

## **Psalm 118:22-24 NIV**

<sup>22</sup> The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;

<sup>23</sup> the LORD has done this,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

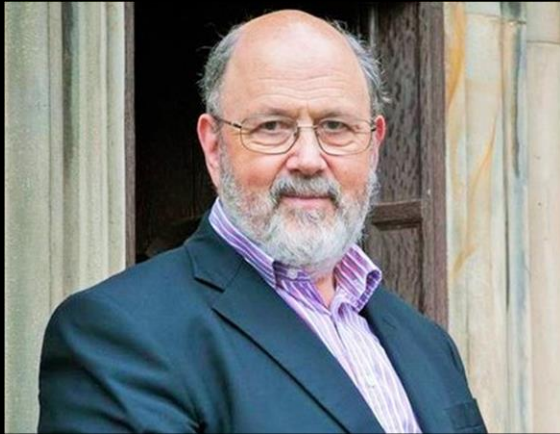
<sup>24</sup> The LORD has done it this very day;  
let us rejoice today and be glad.

## Peter to Sanhedrin in **Acts 4:11-12 NIV**

<sup>11</sup> Jesus is...

“the stone you builders rejected,  
which has become the cornerstone.’

<sup>12</sup> Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”



“The work of salvation, in its full sense, is (1) about whole human beings, not merely souls; (2) about the present, not simply the future; and (3) about what God does through us, not merely what God does in and for us.”

N. T. Wright

## Paul, Romans 5:1-5 NIV

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
<sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

# Being Thankful For God's Gifts

- James tells us “every good and perfect gift is from above” coming down from God the Father (1:17)
- Meditating on God's gifts to us can change us; dwelling on good facts leads to good experiences
- Recognizing what God has done, is doing, and will (or wants) to do can open the door to the Spirit
- Remembering what God has given to us in Christ, and who we are in him, leads to freedom
- Our thankfulness highlights God's faithfulness, which in turn deepens our love and trust in him

“Here are the two best prayers I know: 'Help me, help me, help me' and 'Thank you, thank you, thank you.’”

Anne Lamott





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Sermon audio & slides in PDF can be downloaded at:  
[www.christiansburgmennonite.org](http://www.christiansburgmennonite.org)