

Gratitude

Introduction

Psalm 118

Opening Illustration –

1. What is it?
 - a. Definition: “Desire to see the benefactor prosperous and happy. “
 - b. Natural expression of thanks in response to blessings, protection, or love.¹
 - c. Don’t despise goodness. Romans 2:3-9
2. Why is it important?
 - a. Protects your mind and heart. Philippians 4:6-7; Romans 1:20-21
 - b. It is our highest purpose! Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Romans 12:1-2
 - c. It is our witness. Matthew 5:14-16; Psalm 40:3
3. How can I practice gratitude?
 - a. Sing and give praise! Psalm 145:7; Psalm 149:1; Psalm 150:3-5; Hebrews 13:15; Psalm 92:1
 - b. Offerings and feasts. 2 Chronicles 30:21–22; 2 Corinthians 9:7
 - c. Prayer Ephesians 1:16; Colossians 4:2
 - d. Vows Psalm 116:1; Psalm 116:6; Psalm 116:12; Psalm 116:17-19
 - e. Love Matthew 22:37-40; Romans 13:8

Closing Illustration –

Closing Thought

¹ Walter A. Elwell and Barry J. Beitzel, “[Gratitude](#),” *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 900.