

**Welcome to the
Common Ground Café!**



Sunday, November 11, 2018

**More than Words
A Study of Psalm 107:21-22**

www.hillcrest.church



Have you ever felt “taken for granted” by someone? Don’t name names, but explain how it made/makes you feel to never be thanked or to never have your acts of kindness acknowledged.

Do we as God’s people take him for granted sometimes? Explain.

Today we’ll look at one way the Bible shows us how to express our thanks to God for his blessings and answered prayers. Assign the following verses to four people and have them read the verses: 2 Chronicles 29:31, Psalm 50:23, Psalm 56:12, Psalm 116:17.

What type of offering do all four of these verses have in common?

There were two main types of offerings in the Old Testament: the sin offering, and the fellowship offering. The sin offering was for the forgiveness of sins and it was completely consumed on the altar. The fellowship offering was to express joy and gratitude for one’s relationship to God. Once the sacrifice was roasted on the altar, part of it was eaten by the worshipper and his family within sight of the altar. It was a “fellowship” offering because it was a way of fellowshiping with God. The thank offering was one form of the fellowship offering.

Read Psalm 107:21-22 and then answer the following questions:

- ❖ Identify the 3 phrases that command us to express our gratitude by *speaking, sacrificing, and singing*.
- ❖ We’re more familiar with speaking and singing about our gratitude. Why would a sacrifice to God be an important way to show gratitude?

The Sunday before our nation’s Thanksgiving Day is November 18. This would be a perfect day to let our thanksgiving be “more than words.” If you decide to participate in our church’s Thanksgiving Offering, here are three principles to keep in mind.

A Thanksgiving Offering expresses gratitude and not just obedience

There is a difference between a tithe and a thanksgiving offering.

The Tithe

Read Malachi 3:10. What command and promise did God make?

Read Matthew 23:23. The Pharisees paid meticulous attention to obeying Malachi 3:10. What could you point to in Jesus's words to show he intended them/us to continue this careful attention? If he was glad to see their careful attention to tithing, what was he disappointed about?

The Thanksgiving Offering

Read Psalm 54:6-7. How is the thank offering described in this passage?

Explain the differences and similarities between giving our tithe ***obediently*** and giving a thank offering ***willingly***.

A Thanksgiving Offering expresses sacrifice and not just participation

Read 1 Samuel 21:24. Although David was not speaking specifically about a thank offering, how does the principle apply to a thank offering?

When it comes to figuring out a gift for a wedding anniversary or deciding what to spend on someone at Christmas, how do you do that? What considerations do you have to think through before deciding? How long does it take to decide on a gift?

Now that you've discussed the considerations involved in giving a gift to someone you love, how does that apply to giving a Thanksgiving Offering to God?

**A Thanksgiving Offering expresses
worship and not just institutional support**

The following things are acts of discipleship that each of us should be doing individually. But in what ways is our church impacted by our involvement or lack of involvement in these things? Take each item one at a time.

- ❖ Prayer
- ❖ Evangelism
- ❖ Regular Bible study
- ❖ Tithes and Special Offerings

As your Life Group collects prayer requests today, include a prayer for the success of next week's Thanksgiving Offering.



Close with praise reports and prayer requests