

# **Psalms: Worshiping in All of Life**

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## **I Will Give Thanks**

### **Psalm 111:1-10**

**We are bombarded daily with negativity. We live in a critical culture. We live in a cranky culture. Is that how life is to be lived out? Is that what the Lord wants for us?**

If life is to be lived for the Lord and the end result being that we bring glory to the Lord and enjoy him forever, then every moment of every day is to be an act of worship. It's really difficult to worship every day if the focus of our day is everything that is wrong with our day.

**❖ 1Ch 16:34 (ESV) Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!**

We are told to give thanks to the Lord for his enduring love and faithfulness.

**❖ Psa 9:1 (ESV) To the choirmaster: according to Muth-labben. A Psalm of David. I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.**

In giving thanks to the Lord we are to recount or to make known all the wonderful things the Lord has done.

So what we see from scripture is this ongoing instruction to give thanks to the Lord for who he is and what he has done. It's a call to have a determined outlook of thankfulness that I believe comes from an internalized thankfulness. Thankfulness has to come from within us. We

believe in who God is and what God has done and it comes out of us in ongoing thankfulness.

**Psalm 111 is this individualized psalm of thanksgiving as well as an instructional psalm. I say instructional because each phrase of the psalm other than 1a is built off an alphabetical acrostic that would have been used as a memorization tool. Each of the letters of the Hebrew alphabet begin the lines of the song. It's almost like the psalm writer is saying that this is the A-Z on the foundation for living in and giving thanks.**

The psalm writer starts off in a personal line of praise and thanks and then very quickly invites the congregation to join in with him in praise and thanksgiving.

❖ **Psa 111:1 (ESV) Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.**

Hebrew (Hallelujah—the shortened form of Jehovah/Yahweh) “Praise the Lord”. The writer of the psalm says he will give thanks to the Lord with his whole heart. The word for “thanks” has to do with the physical action of throwing the hands to cast something away. So, while it's not required to physically express yourself in praise and thanks with an uplifted hand, it is certainly acceptable and practiced in scripture. He goes on to say that he will give thanks to the Lord with his whole heart. His desire is to thank the Lord with all that he is, everything that he is.

❖ **Psa 86:12 (ESV) I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.**

1. **We give thanks to the Lord for who he is—Psalm 111:3** says that the Lord's righteousness endures forever. The Lord is righteous—right in all he is and does and that righteousness is eternal in nature. So we give thanks to the Lord. Our thanks is firmly rooted in all that the Lord is.

❖ **Psa 111:3 (ESV) Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.**

2. **We give thanks to the Lord for his works**—Psalm 111:2-9 tells us that his works are great, his works are full of splendor and majesty, his works have been revealed so that they may be remembered, and he is always at work, doing everything justly. We are to study his works, to seek out with care so that we never lose sight of or forget what God has done. He is a God who has provided for his people (food in the wilderness wanderings). His power has delivered the inheritance of the nations (the promised land). His work brought redemption for his people (deliverance from Egyptian bondage). The psalmist ties all this to the covenant promises of God (**111:5, 9**). God keeps his covenant with his people and is always at work. **How do we tie this OT passage to us today? God is the same covenant keeping God today. God's greatest work has been to bring salvation (deliverance).**

❖ **Psa 111:5 (ESV) He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.**

❖ **Psa 111:9 (ESV) He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name!**

**Jesus was sent out from heaven to bring redemption to his people. He came to set us free from spiritual bondage, to provide for us all that we need for this life and to bring us once and for all to his promised land. It is because of this new covenant of eternal life established through the death and resurrection of Jesus that we can experience the righteousness of Christ for ourselves.**

3. **We give thanks to the Lord for his word**—Psalm 111:7b-8. God's word is trustworthy. They are eternal, firmly established forever. They are to be done in the same faithfulness of the One who spoke them. They are to be done in the same uprightness of the congregation that worships and praises and thanks the Lord. We give thanks to the Lord for his word by doing his word.

- ❖ **Psa 111:7-8 (ESV)** The works of his hands are faithful and just; **all his precepts are trustworthy; [8] they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

The psalm writer concludes by drawing our attention back to who God is and our correct response to him.

- ❖ **Psa 111:9-10 (ESV)** He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. **Holy and awesome is his name! [10] The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!**

The Lord is holy and awesome is his name. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. The Lord is righteous, holy, set apart and we do well to hold him in awe and reverence. “The Hebrew root yare appears in the Hebrew bible as a synonym for “love”, “cling to”, and “serve.” At its root, the word denotes obedience to the divine will.”

The one who knows and loves the Lord can live with thankfulness because the Lord is righteous in all he is, wonderful in all he does and promises, and trustworthy in all he says. His righteousness endures forever! His covenant endures forever! His word endures forever! His praise endures forever!

- ❖ **Psa 111:1 (ESV)** **Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.**