

Gratitude in the Life of Paul

Gratitude: Demonstrated by Action

- I. Paul's Example
 - A. Paul had shown himself to be a man of action when it involved serving God.
 - B. It was no different when he learned the Truth and became a Christian.
 - C. Acts 9:18 – Paul obeyed God immediately (cf. 22:16; 26:19; Gal. 1:15-16).
 - D. Acts 9:20 – Paul preached the Gospel straightway.
 - E. Acts 9:22 – Paul grew and matured in faith and service.
 - F. Acts 26:20-23 – Paul traveled far and suffered greatly to serve God.
 - G. His motive was gratitude (1 Timothy 1:12-17).

- II. Paul's Instruction
 - A. James declared that faith must be shown (demonstrated) by works (James 2:17-20).
 - B. The same is true of gratitude.
 - 1. The attitude of gratitude is internal.
 - 2. However, others cannot know of one's gratitude unless it is expressed.
 - C. Paul stated his gratitude for his brethren on many occasions in many of his epistles.
 - 1. Do not forget that he did this by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
 - 2. God wanted Paul to say, "Thank you!"
 - 3. He knew that his brethren would not know how he felt about them if he did not tell them – in words and deeds.
 - 4. 1 Thes. 1:2; 3:9-10; etc.
 - D. Paul declared his gratitude to God.
 - 1. Even though God knew what was in his heart, Paul still expressed gratefulness in words and deeds.
 - 2. He thanked God in prayer (Eph. 1:16), in song (Acts 16:25), in praise (Rom. 11:33-36), and in writing (2 Cor. 9:15).
 - 3. He showed his gratitude by a life of dedication and service.
 - E. Thus, as one reads Paul's epistles, he is instructed to demonstrate gratitude to God and to his fellow man.