

I Didn't Really Need You!

by Terry Hodson

1

One surefire method to “tactfully” let someone know they are not really needed is to simply ignore that person.

Of course, if you would truly like to communicate someone’s superfluous standing—a more subtle, perhaps less harsh, technique would be to just consistently fail to express gratitude to that person...

In essence, the unappreciated person would be told “I didn’t really need you.”

If the insult is readily apparent between flawed human beings—how do you think such arrogance is received upon the throne of God’s heart? Can you imagine saying to Almighty God, “I didn’t really need you?” Yet, aren’t we saying exactly that when we ignore him or fail to give him thanks?

“Very nice of you, God, but armed with our glorious righteousness, our exalted intelligence, and our infinite love—we’ve got this, maybe next time. We’ll let ya know.... “

Humanity has certainly shown no lack of proficiency at stealing the glory that belongs to God alone. Doesn’t this shameful, silent profanity happen every time we fail to give God thanks? One of the 17th century’s most renowned clergymen, William Gurnall, once said, “*Thanksgiving is an act of self denial.*” It would then follow that the failure to give thanks would be an act of abject hubris.

Hebrew language scholars tell us Abel’s offering was made with thanks, while Cain’s was made grudgingly. *Genesis 4:2-5*. The Law of Moses made provision for Israel’s voluntary “thank or fellowship” offering *Leviticus 7:12; 22:29*, and may have even commanded such sacrifices *Psalms 50:14*. The Apostle Paul communicated God’s command that we give thanks, whenever we make requests to our

Lord *Romans 1:21, Philippians 4:5*, and God made flesh (Jesus the Christ) exemplified the giving of thanks to God on many occasions *Matthew 26:27, John 6:11, 11:41...*

Why should our gratitude to God be so important to our Maker? Could it be our loving God has commanded our Thanksgiving, in order to protect us from trusting in ourselves? Indeed, isn’t ingratitude to the God of mercy, really just a practice of idolatry, since we are (subtly) saying, “God I don’t really need you?”

When we take “The Lord’s Supper” (the *eucharist*) we remind ourselves of our Savior’s great labor for us *Luke 22:19*; in essence, we remember our dependence upon the Christ. It is too easy to forget that our salvation is not the merited working of our loving hearts, our vigorous minds or our most radiant righteousness; in truth, our salvation is a gift from flawless God, the only entity, corporal or ethereal, able to save us—thus we *eucharist* God—that is to say, “We thank God!”

More than anything else, dear Lord Jesus, we do need you—thus we thank you!

(Continued on reverse)

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2

1. Vincent de Paul once said, "*We should spend as much time thanking God for his benefits as we do in asking him for them.*"
What are we implying when we consistently fail to thank God?
2. Dwell in thoughtful meditation over *Psalm 50*, paying close attention to verses 14-15 and 23.
3. Giving thanks to God brings glory to God, but how could giving thanks to God protect us?
4. Please take some time to reflect upon all the ways God has provided for you. For instance, your physical needs (food, shelter, medicine etc.) as well as your spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus (the indwelling Holy Spirit...the Holy Bible...your laboring for the kingdom...the angelic horde...your sanctification, and of course your eternal life in God's holy presence). Now take a little more time to offer our Saving Lord of mercy a prayer of thanks for all these things...and others.