

# November 2012

## Thanks-Living

*Philippians 4:6*

**Emphasis:** Leading men to a lifestyle of thankfulness.

Notes

**Teaching:** Two men were walking through a field one day when they spotted a charging bull. Quickly, they began running toward the nearest fence. The storming bull followed in hot pursuit, and it appeared they would not scale the fence in time. One of the men shouted to the other, "Put a prayer up for us, John!" John answered, "I can't. I've never prayed in public." "But, you got to. The bull is going to kill us." "All right," panted John, "I'll say the only prayer I know, the one my father used to repeat at the table: 'O Lord, for what we are about to receive, make us truly thankful.'"

Paul wrote, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. (Philippians 4:6, NKJV)." While we may have a hard time thanking God for an encounter with an angry bull, we must live our lives with the awareness that nothing catches God by surprise. He wants us to acknowledge this truth in prayer.

God answers prayer. Think of recent prayers you know God has answered. Have you truly expressed thanks to God in word and in actions that exhibit your gratitude?

Jesus saves. Jimmy Draper once said, "The problem with many Christians is that they have forgotten how it felt to be lost." What was your life like before you became a Christian? What do you do to show your gratitude to Christ for your salvation?

**Mission Application:**

- Determine a way in which the group can put their Thanksgiving spirit in direct "thanks-living" actions this month. Example:
  - Call and thank the individuals who were key in leading them to Christ.
  - Send a thank you to elderly men who have been key leaders of the church in the past.
  - Do something to honor veterans.
  - Consider holding a men's Sunday school class in the home of a homebound member for just one Sunday.
- Remind the men that the Lottie Moon Christmas offering for International Missions will be collected next month.