

4 Reasons We Can Be Thankful (Joe Carter)

Some Things Stay the Same

Americans celebrate Thanksgiving every year – a national tradition of giving thanks for the blessings of the preceding year. But for Christians, every **day** should be a day of thanksgiving, since the regular practice of gratitude is a means by which we become rightly oriented toward God.

Without a regular infusion of gratitude we can become self-involved, believing that we are responsible for all that we have in our lives. Only by developing the discipline of gratitude can we ensure that we are cognizant of God's goodness and reliant on him for our daily existence.

Expressing our gratitude can be challenging even when we feel blessed. But what about when we are enduring times of pain, suffering, or difficulty? How can we be thankful when we've lost our job or when our child is enslaved to pornography? How can we be thankful when our neighbours are suffering from sexual abuse or dying from opioid addictions?

When our world seems to be falling apart, how can we be expected, as Paul tells us, to "give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:18)? Is the apostle saying we must be thankful for these troubles? As Jim Burns explains,

*No. If you look closely you'll see that Paul is not telling you to be thankful for these things; rather we are to be thankful in our circumstances. There is a major difference between being thankful **for** every situation in life and being thankful **in** those situations. He challenges us to find reasons to be thankful even in the worst of struggles.*

All of us struggle in times of suffering and despair to express our gratitude for what God has done for us. But there are four reasons believers can be thankful in times of trouble:

1. BECAUSE WE ARE NOT ALONE

No Christian ever goes through times of trouble alone. We are not only united with Christ, we are also united with fellow believers through our union with Jesus. Our Savior does not remain outside of us, simply leading the way to a better life, Michael Horton says. Rather, "we live in him and therefore in and for each other."

If you are anxious or afraid, in pain or in doubt, turn to the Lord and seek out your brothers and sisters in Christ. Let other believers know of your trouble so they might help share your burdens.

-----Part 2: next week-----

giving: financial stewardship update

Last Week:	\$4,237.30
Weekly Required:	\$5,500.00
Shortfall:	\$773.00

electronic fund transfer

A/C Name:	SLE Church
Bank:	National Australia Bank
BSB:	084-424
A/C No:	396558544
Description:	Offering

10 December 2017

welcome to sle church

We are delighted to have you join us today! It is our prayer that you will enjoy all aspects of our gathering this morning.

about

The 'SL' in 'SLE' means St Lucia. The suburb our church is located in. The 'E' stands for English. We are a church family made of many migrant families from across South-East Asia, and we are English speaking. The 'E' also stands for Evangelical. We are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this by getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible, which is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services.

get connected

Please join us for refreshments and a chat after the service. We look forward to getting to know you. If you are new to SLE Church, have a prayer request, family news, or change of contact details please email: info@slechurch.org.au or call 3371 7589.

Connect with us online: slechurch.org.au or 'like' us for further updates at facebook.com/slechurch

service times

9:00am and 11:00am





servicing grace

	Today	Next Week
Chair	Ps Ben	Mervin
Preach	Ps Steven	Ps Ben
Bible Read	Dan Lowe	Matthew
	<i>Marilyn</i>	<i>Alan</i>
M.Tea	Winnie Tao	Eilen
	Shelley	Stella
Wash Up	SOS Dan	SaLT
Welcome	Amy	Amy
	Ken	Ken
	Stephanie	Stephanie
	<i>Marilyn</i>	<i>Marilyn</i>
	<i>Joy</i>	<i>Joy</i>
	<i>Andrew</i>	<i>Andrew</i>
Stewards	Jeffery	Jeffery
	Meng Yin	Meng Yin
	Matthew	Matthew
	<i>Daniel</i>	<i>Daniel</i>
	<i>Aaron</i>	<i>Aaron</i>
	<i>Stanley</i>	<i>Stanley</i>
Piano	Dan Lowe	Aaron
Drum	Nathan	
Vocal	Janael	Deborah
PA	Reuten	Daniel
	Chris	William

current sermons

Last Week: I Believe in Jesus' Return

[1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11]

This Week: God is Our Fortress [Psalm 46]

Next Week: Our Comforting God [Psalm 55]

prayer points

- Thank God for the opportunity for gospel-sharing that Christmas provides. Thank God that many Queensland schools allow Christians to come in to perform plays and musicals that convey the Christmas message of Jesus' birth and its significance. Thank God that many churches are using this time of the year to especially reach out to the community.
- Pray for those who have heard the message, that seeds will be planted, that seeds will be watered and pray in hope that God will cause growth and people will respond to Jesus with faith and repentance.
- Pray for us at SLE to especially be a church that cares for the lost, and not just during this 'season'. Pray for God to lay a burden on our heart to keep reaching out to the people around us, regardless of race, age, gender, social status, and so on.
- Pray that we would keep thinking about and serving those who are poor, financially and relationally, especially at this time of the year when the lack of these things are even more difficult to bear. Pray for God to help our hearts be soft and for us to practice gospel-driven charity.

community news

Christmas Day Service—25 Dec | 9am | SLE Hall

Please take this opportunity to invite your friends and family to attend.

If you are able, please bring a plate of morning tea to share!

Ignite Training Conference—Dust to Glory | 15 Jan-19 Jan, 2018 | 1 Cross Street, Toowong

Registration: Early bird—by 11:30pm, Thursday 30 November, 2017

For more information head to

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ignite-training-conference-2018-tickets-37867545849>

date claimers

1. Christmas Day Service—25 December
2. Impact 2018—10 January, 2018
3. Ignite Training Conference—15-19 January, 2018

church contacts

83 Ryans Road,
St Lucia 4067
3371 7589
info@slechurch.org.au

Pastor Ben Ho
m: 0433 581 335
e: ben.ho@slechurch.org.au

Pastor Steven Tran
m: 0411 621 159
e: steven.tran@slechurch.org.au

God is our Fortress [Psalm 46]

Introduction

So what?

There is no refuge *from* him, there is only refuge *in* him

1. God is our refuge in the midst of chaos and rage (1-7)

Be still in faith and trust, fearing nothing

Come: the invited and the invitation

2. God is with us and everyone will know it (8-11)

3. Jesus: the exalted One, the rock, and refuge