

Thankfulness

by John Newton

John Newton's sermon emphasizes the importance of thankfulness amidst suffering and the recognition of God's mercy in our lives.

Scripture: Psalm 34:19, Psalm 107:1, 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Hebrews 4:16, Hebrews 7:25

Topics: "Gratitude And Humility", "Suffering And Hope"

Description

John Newton reflects on the importance of gratitude, humility, and patience in the midst of afflictions, emphasizing that our sufferings are far less than we deserve and less than what others are enduring. He encourages a focus on thankfulness for the countless mercies we receive, even in the midst of trials, and urges reliance on God's compassion and grace. Newton shares his personal experiences of undergoing surgery and the gratitude he feels for being brought safely through it, highlighting the need to anchor our hope in God's ability to save and help us.

Transcript

October 10, 1777.

I am just come from seeing A--N--. The people told me she is much better than she was, but she is far from being well. She was brought to me into a parlour, which saved me the painful task of going to inquire and seek for her among the patients. My spirits always sink when I am within these mournful walls, and I think no money could prevail on me to spend an hour there every day. Yet surely no sight upon earth is more suited to teach one thankfulness and resignation. Surely I have reason, in my worst times, to be thankful that I am out of hell, out of Bedlam, out of Newgate. If my eyes were as bad as yours, and my back worse, still I hope I should set a great value upon this mercy, that my senses are preserved. I hope you will think so too. The Lord afflicts us at times; but it is always a thousand times less than we deserve, and much less than many of our fellow-creatures are suffering around us. Let us therefore pray for grace to be humble, thankful, and patient.

This day twelvemonth I was under Mr. W - 's knife; there is another cause for thankfulness, that the Lord inclined me to submit to the operation, and brought me happily through it. In short, I have so many reasons for thankfulness, that I cannot count them. I may truly say, they are more in number than the hairs of my head. And, yet, alas! how cold, insensible, and ungrateful! I could make as many complaints as you; but I find no good by complaining, except to Him who is able to help me. It is better for you and me to be admiring the compassion and fulness of grace that is in our Saviour, than to dwell and pore too much upon

our own poverty and vileness. He is able to help and save to the uttermost; there I desire to cast anchor, and wish you to do so likewise. Hope in God, for you shall yet praise Him.

I am, &c.

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