

**Rolling Hills Community Church - Franklin**  
**Stories of Thanksgiving**  
**Nic Allen**

**November 12 | Attitude of Gratitude**

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. Psalm 100:4-5*

**Gratitude is a Godly goal but not a guarantee.**

We're up against:

- human nature
- popular culture

The antithesis of gratitude is entitlement: the belief that one is inherently deserving of privileges or special treatment; characterized by expectations of getting without having to give and by taking blessings for granted.

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)*

**God's will for your life includes thanksgiving**

As 21st century westernized believers, we're conditioned to be hyper focused on God's specific will for our individual lives, while ignoring God's general will for our faith community.

**So how do we learn it and lead it?**

1. Cultivate a thankful perspective in your own life.

*It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 1:30-31 (NIV)*

2. Model thanksgiving for others in your life.

*You became **imitators** of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. 1 Thessalonians 1:4-6*

3. Even be willing to lose your life.

*...so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the Gospel of God but our lives as well. Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. 1 Thessalonians 2:8*

*"Whoever seeks to keep his **life** will lose it, and whoever loses his **life** will preserve it." Luke 17:33*

**Taking It Home**

Thanksgiving, in our culture today, has become about family, turkey, shopping and football. Many times, we are so busy through the holiday that we rarely spend any time

truly being thankful. This year, let's be thankful. Take time to thank God for who He is and for what He has done in your life. Take time to thank those closest to you for what they mean in your life. And, take time to teach your children about how to be thankful.

Then, may we work to develop an attitude of gratitude not just on Thanksgiving, but every day of our life. "And, be thankful." Colossians 3:15