

“Thanks For Giving Us...”

Series Part 1

November 3, 2024

Scripture Text: Genesis 1:26 NKJV *Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”*

What does it mean to be created in God's image? Being made in His image means God formed us distinctly to represent Him on earth with the ability to have dominion.

David looked at the vastness of God’s creation and said, in **Psalms 8:3-6 NIV** *When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, 4 what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? 5 You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. 6 You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet:*

God the Father has an incredible love for us!

Our likeness with God is not physical but denotes our capacity to rule over creation and be in a relationship with God and other humans, exercising reason, intelligence, speech, moral consciousness, creativity, rationality, and correct choices. Our relationship with God and our choices will always align with His will in a perfect world.

Our very existence is for God to bless us and enjoy close fellowship with us; for this reason, He made us like Himself and to live eternally with Him. The very moment that Lucifer led his eyes upon us, he

has been trying to destroy our relationship with God the Father by any means necessary.

1. Thanks for giving us... LIFE!

Scripture Text: Galatians 5:13-14 AMP 13 *For you, my brothers, were called to freedom; only do not let your freedom become an opportunity for the sinful nature {worldliness, selfishness}, but through love serve and seek the best for one another. 14 For the whole Law {concerning human relationships} is fulfilled in one precept, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself {that is, you shall have an unselfish concern for others and do things for their benefit}.”*

Scripture Text: James 1:25 AMP But he who looks carefully into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and faithfully abides by it, not having become a {careless} listener who forgets but an active doer {who obeys}, he will be blessed and favored by God in what he does {in his life of obedience}.

2. Thanks for giving us... LIBERTY!

Scripture Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 AMP 16 *Rejoice always and delight in your faith; 17 be unceasing and persistent in prayer; 18 in every situation {no matter what the circumstances} be thankful and continually give thanks to God; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.*

Scripture Text: John 15:10 TLB 10 *When you obey me, you are living in my love, just as I obey my Father and live in his love. 11 I have told you this so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your cup of joy will overflow!*

3. Thanks for giving us... JOY!

Applications: Keeping aligned with God’s will makes our witness effective in reaching others for Christ.