

Choose to be Thankful
Ephesians Part 30

“Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
Ephesians 5:20

I read this story about Mike. Mike was always thankful and it affected his mood. When someone asked Mike how he was doing he would say, “If I were doing any better I’d be twins.” If an employee was having a bad day, Mike would be right there with encouragement and something positive to say.

One day a friend went up to Mike and said, “I don’t get it. You can’t be that positive all the time.” Mike replied, “Friend, each morning when I get up I remind myself that I have two choices. I can choose to be in a good mood and be thankful or I can choose to be in a bad mood and be ungrateful. Every time something bad happens I can choose to have a victim mindset or I can choose to learn from the circumstance. Every time I hear someone complaining I choose to be positive and grow instead of looking at the way things appear.”

Mike’s friend said, “Ok, you’re right, but it’s not that easy!” Mike said, “Life is all about choices. When you cut away all the junk, every situation is going to have a choice. You choose how you react to life. You choose to be thankful. You chose to gain God’s insight. You can also be angry, worried and complaining, but it’s just not worth it.”

One day Mike got in a serious accident. He fell sixty feet from a communications tower. After eighteen hours of surgery and months in intensive care, he was released from the hospital with rods in his back. His friend saw him a few years after the accident and asked him, “So, Mike, how are you doing?” Mike said, “If I were doing any better I’d be twins!” Mike’s friend couldn’t believe it. He asked, “Mike, what went through your head when you were lying there on the floor in trouble?” Mike said, “As I lay there I remembered that I had two choices. I could choose to live or I could choose to die. I chose to live.” “But, weren’t you scared?” his friend asked.

“Yes, but the paramedics were great. They kept telling me that I was doing fine. When they wheeled me into the emergency room the doctor’s faces were pretty bad. Their eyes said, “This one is dead.” One nurse asked me if I was allergic to anything and I told her that I was allergic to gravity. They all started to laugh and then I said, “Look, I chose life. So, when you operate on me, operate on a man who is going to live, not a man who is going to die.”

Mike did live thanks to the skilled doctors, but also because he chose life. We are all faced with many challenges each day but remember: it all boils down to two choices. We can choose life and be thankful for who we are and what we have or we can be ungrateful, complaining and allow the spirit of death to overtake our soul. To be thankful you must be intentional. Paul exhorts us to always give thanks to God for everything. Choose thanksgiving today. You will be glad you did and your life will be more fruitful.