

ACKNOWLEDGING WHAT IS IN YOU (Compiled by Curtis Lanclos)

Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are from the New King James Version (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

I. Introduction

A. **Philemon 1:4-6**

⁴I thank my God, making mention of you always in my prayers, ⁵hearing of your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints, ⁶that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

1. *Acknowledge* (definitions):

- a. To admit the existence, reality, or truth of.
- b. To recognize as being valid or having force or power.
- c. To express recognition of.
- d. To express thanks or gratitude for.
- e. To report the receipt of.
- f. Law. To accept or certify as legally binding.

2. You cannot *acknowledge* something without *knowledge* of it.

3. Many believers are ineffective at sharing their faith because they have been conditioned by religious tradition to acknowledge every bad thing about them outside of Christ rather than every good thing in them in Christ.

B. **1 Timothy 4:14**

¹⁴Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.

1. Timothy was the pastor of the Ephesian church, and Paul was his father in the faith.
2. Paul essentially instructed Timothy to never stop acknowledging the gift in him.

C. **2 Timothy 1:3-7**

³I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as *my* forefathers *did*, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, ⁴greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, ⁵when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. ⁶Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

1. Here, Paul not only instructs Timothy to acknowledge the gift of God in him, but also to stir it up.
2. Paul did not counsel Timothy to seek a “fresh anointing” or a “touch from God,” as many would do today. If Timothy would have done so, he would have failed to acknowledge and stir up what he already had. Paul goes on to say that God has already given us a spirit of power, love, and a sound mind.

II. The gift of God in born-again, Spirit-filled believers consists of...

A. The Holy Spirit

1. **John 14:16,17**

¹⁶“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— ¹⁷“the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”

2. **John 7:38,39**

³⁸“He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”
³⁹But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

3. **1 Corinthians 6:19**

¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

4. **1 John 4:4**

⁴You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

B. The Power (or “Anointing”) of God

1. **1 John 2:20,27**

²⁰But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.

²⁷But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

a. These two verses are the only places in the NT that use the word “anointing” to describe the indwelling power of God.

b. Usually, the power of God is described as just that... *power*. The Greek word is *dunamis*, which refers to supernatural ability.

2. **2 Corinthians 4:7**

⁷But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

3. **Ephesians 3:20**

²⁰Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us...

C. The Love of God

1. **Romans 5:5**

⁵Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

2. **1 John 4:11,19**

¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another...

¹⁹We love Him because He first loved us.

III. Lack of knowledge (not love or power) is the culprit! You cannot *acknowledge* something without *knowledge* of it! Ignorance is not always bliss!

A. **Hosea 4:6**

⁶My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

B. **John 8:31,32**

³¹Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³²“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

C. **2 Peter 1:2-4**

²Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, ³as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

D. The prayers of Paul for the church do not contain the “revival jargon” or requests for more love and power of modern-day Christianity. Rather, he prays for the church to receive a revelation of the knowledge of God, His will, and His power and love already in us. In other words, revival requires the use of your MIND...

1. **Ephesians 1:15-21**

¹⁵Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, ²¹far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

2. **Ephesians 3:14-20**

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height— ¹⁹to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

3. **Colossians 1:9-11**

⁹For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

IV. Conclusion - Transformation (revival/refreshing/renewal) occurs when you renew your mind (remembrance); not from asking God to “send revival” or “send it on down”...

A. **Romans 12:1,2**

¹I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

B. **Colossians 3:9,10**

⁹Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

C. **2 Peter 1:12,13**

¹²For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. ¹³Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, ¹⁴knowing that shortly I *must* put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. ¹⁵Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

D. **2 Peter 3:1,2**

¹Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in *both of* which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), ²that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior...

E. **John 14:26**

²⁶“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.