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GRATITUDE

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1- INTRODUCTION

1. INTRODUCTION

We live in the fast-food era, in which
everything is made at the **TIME** we ask for it,
everything is delivered very **FAST**,
nobody has time or patience to wait for anything.

And because we **LIVE** in this world, many believers also live like this, and then, fall into the error of treating God as **THEIR** employee!

But God is nobody's employee! We have to **SERVE** God and do what He tells us to do.

Many believers fall into the error of thinking that God has to bow down to this fast-food system, they get **OFFENDED** when God doesn't answer straight away, **OR** when God doesn't answer them the way they want him to.

Another mistake that many believers make is the following:

when God really ANSWERS a prayer and works a miracle, we don't even remember to thank Him!

The ORIGIN of such ungratefulness is that people THINK they are entitled to receive this or that.

Some people say *“Ah, everyone gets what they deserve.”*

If you stop to think about it, this saying is not true for us who are children of God.

Because you and I DESERVE to go to hell! You and I DESERVE curses on this earth!

Why? Because we are sinners.

Romans 6:23

23 For the WAGES of sin is DEATH...

The Bible says that we DESERVE eternal death because every day we sin. Every day we earn the RIGHT to go to hell.

But those who are saved, have the BLOOD of JESUS that cleanses them from these sins.

Jesus PAID the price for us! Jesus unjustly SUFFERED the price for OUR sins.

Many believers think that they have the RIGHT to be

- to be healed
- to be blessed
- to have a miracle in their life

Believers THINK that they have this right because

“Oh I serve God with my best! So God has to make a miracle in my life.

“Oh I go to church every Sunday so God has to bless me! I may not sow my tithes, but I sow more than many people so God has to bless me!”

But the Bible teaches us that there is NO ONE who is good; there is NO ONE who deserves anything good!

Romans 3:10

10...There is none righteous, no, not one.

For us to UNDERSTAND what it is to have a spirit of gratitude, first of all we have to understand and believe what I just said - we ARE not good!

Therefore, we must be GRATEFUL towards God

for His GRACE and
for His MERCY

GRACE

Grace is God BLESSING us and GIVING us things we do not DESERVE.

For example, whoever receives Jesus as their Lord and Saviour enters heaven. But that is the GRACE of God towards us, because we are sinners and we shouldn't go to heaven.

Ephesians 2:8

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.

MERCY

Mercy is God NOT GIVING us the punishment we deserve.

We should all go to HELL, because there is no one who has never sinned.

But those who have received Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, will not end up in hell.

Ephesians 2:4-5

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

So it is CRUCIAL that a believer understands that God is GOOD to us, even though we deserve nothing!

Because until a believer understands this, he will never be GRATEFUL to God!

You might seem like a very righteous person in your own eyes but in the eyes of God, there is no one who is totally righteous. That is why, we should all be grateful to God for his GRACE and MERCY.

2. WHAT IT MEANS TO BE GRATEFUL

Being grateful is a SPIRIT.

Being grateful is a WAY of LIVING.

Being grateful is not just saying thank you, nor is it just thanking God when He works a miracle in our life.

Being grateful is a WAY of LIVING in which I am continuously GRATEFUL

for what God has already done and is doing in my life for his GRACE (to be allowed to go to heaven)
for his MERCY (for being delivered from hell) for his LOVE (for sending us Jesus)

for my SALVATION

for my CALLING (God has chosen me)

for his PEACE (living in peace and not having to be worried) for one more day of life that God gives me

In other words, every day God gives us SO MANY things, so we should live continuously in a spirit of gratitude.

That is what this book is about.

In this book I will TEACH

- 1st - What it means to have a SPIRIT of GRATITUDE
- 2nd - The CONSEQUENCES of being GRATEFUL
- 3rd - What it means to be UNGRATEFUL
- 4th - The CONSEQUENCES of being UNGRATEFUL
- 5th - HOW to create a spirit of GRATITUDE

2- A SPIRIT of GRATITUDE

1. INTRODUCTION

We should all have a GRATEFULL heart towards God.

It is only a matter of time for a person who forgets to thank God, to LOSE God's protection; because the things God has done for him become insignificant.

We can never take things for granted.

If I ask some people:

"How was your day today?"

They answer:

"Oh, a normal day."

A normal day? How is it a normal day?

You have BED to sleep on
You have FOOD on the table
You are not homeless, nobody kicked you out
You are not at war

Yet there are MILLIONS of people starving to death:
People in Afghanistan who have to sell their kidneys
to pay for food. People in Ukraine who now had to
flee their homes...not to mention Syria, Afghanistan,
Iraq, etc.

So we have to think:

*“Wait a minute, I am a privileged, I have God. I gave
my life to Jesus and that means a lot.”*

But gratitude is not just SAYING

“I thank you God, for my salvation etc...”

**Gratitude is a SPIRIT,
it is a WAY of LIVING.**

When we have a SPIRIT of GRATITUDE, we will automatically

- TELL God that we are grateful
- DO things for God that we do not do for anyone else

That is why I say that gratitude
IS NOT SAYING thank you.

Many people say “*Thank you God*”, but they don’t really mean it, because they don’t FEEL gratitude in their hearts.

Many believers may even say the following every day in their CDP

“I thank you oh God, for my salvation.

I thank you oh God, for my calling.

I thank you oh God, for Jesus’ death on the cross.”

But they SAY IT without thinking about what they are really saying,
they SAY IT without FEELING gratitude in their heart.

Do you think about what Jesus FELT when he died on the cross in your place?

He SUFFERED a lot, because he loved you and I!

When we THANK God with our words, it must be with this THOUGHT and FEELING in our hearts as well.

So we need to have this SPIRIT of GRATITUDE.

What does having a spirit of gratitude mean? How can I HAVE a spirit of gratitude?

That is what I am going to teach in this book

2. GRATITUDE for our SALVATION

Every day we should thank God for the fact that we are SAVED.

When I thank God for my salvation, I imagine that I have left the war zone and that I have entered God's zone. I left one place and moved on to another.

If you are in Porto and you go to Vila Nova de Gaia, there is a river that separates them. If you are in Lisbon and you travel to the south, there is a river that separates both places.

When we give our lives to Jesus, we move from one place to another and there is a 'river' that separates us from each place.

When I thank God for my salvation, I imagine:

“Wait a minute, I've LEFT the zone of war, I've LEFT the zone of CURSES. I got out of the zone where the devil does whatever he wants, whenever he wants; I got out of the zone where at any moment anything bad could happen.”

People who are not saved,
KNOW that something bad is going to happen to them.

They KNOW that because they are used to it, It is normal for them.

People who do not have Jesus, are used to:

*“I already know that I am going to die with cancer.
I already know that I am going to have financial problems.
I already know that I will lack this and that...”*

BUT NOT those who have Jesus!

We already know that none of that is for us.

When we give our lives to Jesus,
the NORMAL thing in life is for EVERYTHING to GO
WELL.

We are privileged people

- we have been transported into the Kingdom of God
- we have been delivered from the power of darkness
the devil can no longer do what he wants...he HAS
NO PERMISSION
- now we are the ones who are in CHARGE

Therefore, when I say in a very simple sentence:

“I thank you Lord for my salvation.”

I am summing up ALL that I just said which is mega important! Because when giving my life to Jesus, I got out of the hassle.

It's also important for us to know that salvation is not something that happened long ago and that's it.

Salvation is a DAILY WALK with God:

- I have been saved
- I am on the path to salvation
- I have entered a path which is the WAY that leads to ETERNITY

It is not just that I already gave my life to Jesus, and that's it. No! Salvation is a daily walk with God.

The day of our salvation is the DAY in which we

- BEGIN a new life
- were RESCUED from hell

If a person is not SAVED when they die where do they go? They go to HELL and they stay there forever!

Think about this!

We have to be GRATEFUL to God for our salvation!

If Jesus had NOT paid the price for us,
we too would be condemned to LIVE
ETERNALLY in hell!

EVERY DAY I have to praise God for my SALVATION, because it is the most IMPORTANT thing I have.

Of course I should be thankful for God's protection, for the blessings that God gives me...but it is worth nothing if I am not saved!

I may have a good life on earth, but what matters is how I will live ETERNALLY.

**Life on earth is SHORT,
but ETERNITY is forever.**

So we should be GRATEFUL for our salvation.

3. GRATITUDE for GOD's PROTECTION

Now that I am a child of God, I am in a place where I have two basic things:

God's PROTECTION
the BLESSINGS of God

It is very important that I have God's PROTECTION!

In the Bible we see in *Psalms 91* that God says

1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High, shall ABIDE under the shadow of the Almighty.

3 Surely, He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence.

4 He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall TAKE REFUGE;

7 A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come near you.
(They may DIE, DISGRACEFUL, jobless, but NOT ME...)

11 For He shall give His angels charge over you, to KEEP you in all your ways.

14 Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; *(Because I LOVE God and I do the things God LIKES, he protects me)* I will set him on high, because he has known My name.

15 He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. *(In days of trouble, of sorrow, if I call upon Him, He answers me and delivers me, and gives me abundance of days).*

How can I not thank God every day?
Because of this DAILY protection.

God protects us DAILY:

God protects us from many things
and from people that we do not see or know!

We must THANK God for the protection He gives us every day.

But also in ***Psalms 91***, it is written that He protects us **IF**

- WE walk with God
- LOVE God dearly

4. GRATITUDE for our CALLING

I also praise God and show gratitude to Him for my CALLING.

God could have called anyone else to be in my place.

I know that we are all called to help God, but many HAVEN'T BEEN chosen.

Many were called and not chosen for various reasons which I will not be talking about here.

We ALL have a calling

to HELP God

to PREACH the gospel

BUT God has called some to be apostles, to be prophets, etc., and that is something that we have to give value to!

It is mega important!

So many people WANT TO BE

- mayor
- chairman of the parish council
- secretaries for I don't know what, etc.

They FIGHT for it, they have elections, they STEP all over each other to climb the corporate ladder.

BUT we have already been CHOSEN by God!

Serving God is for ETERNALLY:

We will be owners and managers of the things belonging to our almighty God, forever!

So how can we forget that?

It is a GREAT HONOR to help God.

**What is the BATTLEFIELD? It's this PLANET
What is God's great GOAL? SAVING SOULS**

What does God want to achieve?

What is he fighting for?

Not for land

Not for gold

Not for money

But for SOULS

So when I praise God for my calling, I automatically remember:

“I am in a fight to HELP GOD win people for Him, to free people from the devil, to set free those who are bound with invisible, but real strings. They are tied to demons of witchcraft, idolatry, and spiritual blindness.”

This is no joke!

You and I were CHOSEN!

No matter the hierarchy, whether you are just a brother of the Mana Church, or a deacon, or an elder, or a bishop. The hierarchy is only there to organize things when leading this great army of God.

But the fact that we are a part of God's war is a GREAT HONOUR!

When we THANK God for our CALLING, we should also think:

“Wow, I am in the right war, I already know I will always win, there is no way I can't win!”

There is no way I can lose, because the devil does not stand a chance! In the name of Jesus he has to BOW down.”

Where else in the world does this exist? It doesn't exist!

Where else in the world is there an army that ALWAYS WINS, EVERY TIME? No where!

But we were CHOSEN by God,

*We are in an army that ALWAYS WINS
because we have the GREATEST one of ALL on our
side!*

We also know that after this world ends, we are going to be GOVERNORS of God's affairs. That is a very serious thing.

**I have to praise God because
I was CALLED and CHOSEN by him!**

So many people want to be someone here on Earth. Then they fight with schemes and lies just to win the elections for 4 years.

And we are already elected for all ETERNITY.

Think about it:

You have been elected for all ETERNITY!

You were not elected for 4 years, you were elected for ETERNITY!

When I PRAISE God every day for my calling, that I don't FORGET that I am here on this Earth with a PURPOSE.

EXAMPLE of MOISES

God is Moses' personal friend. Why?

Moses was chosen to be Pharaoh = owner of the world, of a mega empire.

But he decided to TRADE all that empire and money, for something unseen!

He decided not to be pharaoh, knowing fully well that he was probably going to be killed because of that decision.

But what he saw was so great that he said:

"No, I do not want this small empire, being pharaoh is nothing. I want to serve God!"

There are many believers that, no matter how much I teach this, do not understand this or value this.

Therefore, they will never be someone great for God.

When a brother does not understand what I am saying, they are a citizen of the world JUST LIKE the rest of them! They will never amount to much.

If you look at a brother like this, you will not see any difference between his life and an unbeliever's life.

Why? Because God is not with him.

But when a person is GRATEFUL for their salvation and for their calling, and still helps God, then God sticks with him and becomes his friend! That person will be EXALTED.

BEING EXALTED means:

Being placed in a HIGH position, above others
Being ABOVE average

When we understand this, our life CHANGES.

Every day, I thank God and I remember that I was called by God!

And every day I praise God for SPECIFIC things, for things that happened on that day.

We always have to THINK,

“What has God done in my life today? Every day God does wonderful things!”

We can never stop THANKING God for what He does in our lives.

5. GRATITUDE for the FEELING of JOY

I must also express gratitude for the JOY that God gives me.

The Joy that we have when we serve God, is something PRICELESS.

There are many people who are VERY RICH, but they are wretched because they only have money. They have MONEY but they have a dysfunctional family. Nobody likes them, people only like their money.

People are FRIENDS with him just because they want their money and position.

In other words, they never have peace, they are always WORRIED, they don't know what is going to happen to them tomorrow.

Because they are on the other side - CURSES. They are not on this side - God's BLESSINGS.

But when we have God and we are thankful for our salvation, we are thankful for our calling and we are doing our calling, God puts two things in our hearts:

- PEACE

- JOY

God places in our heart the will to LIVE. There are many people who are only happy if they are SERVING God!

That comes from God!

The opposite of that is TORMENT

- A person never knows what is going to happen next
- A person is never happy
- A person is always worried

Imagine one of those Russian oligarchs or American tycoons:

They have billions of dollars, they have this, that and the other. BUT then they are always unhappy! They are always WORRIED about who wants to steal from them. They always get strange phone calls with threats.

What JOY does such a person have? NONE, because they are always worried.

But not us! We are always happy because we know that no harm will befall us.

We have JOY that does not depend on the events of this world. We know that a thousand may fall at our side, ten thousand to our right, and that we will be HAPPY because we have God by our side.

This kind of JOY is priceless.

6. GRATITUDE for GOD'S PEACE

We should also be grateful for the PEACE that God gives us.

People who do not have God, have no peace:

- they are worried about Covid
- they are worried about the war in the Ukraine
- they are worried about the PRICE of fuel
- then they will worry about other things that are going to happen

But not us!

In the middle of a CRISIS

- so many people have no money
- so many people lose their jobs
- so many people are threatened with all sorts of business problems

We do not WORRY,

We have the PEACE of God.

It doesn't matter if things get THREE TIMES more expensive, because it is my God who will fulfill all of my needs! God fulfills my needs because I LIVE by GOD'S SYSTEM.

A believer who is RIGHT with GOD, has PEACE:

he knows that God CARES for him

he knows that God IS with him

he knows that God FULFILLS His promises

But to have this peace
I have to be at PEACE with God.

In other words, it is very important that I like God, BUT also that GOD likes me.

7. BEING GOD'S FRIEND

Let us now look at the example of Abraham:

- he was CALLED by God
- he was CHOSEN by God

When God promised that He would give Abraham a son, through his wife who had always been barren, he BELIEVED.

Abraham did NOT PAY ATTENTION their bodies.
He had a SPIRIT of FAITH.

But notice that he didn't have a Bible to base himself upon, he didn't have the Bible School.

He had a SPIRIT of FAITH that:

- If God said so, that is how it will be.
- God is always right.
- What God asks me to do, is always in my favour.

Even when God asked him to sacrifice his son, I'm sure he was crying. But I believe that in his heart, he believed:

"I don't understand what God is doing, BUT God doesn't mean to cause me any harm. God is my friend."

Little did he know that God's plan was the following:

Whoever is in a blood covenant with God, whatever that person does, God will ALSO do the same.

God needed someone to willingly give up his son, so that the mighty God would also give up His only son, because he loves us.

That is why Abraham became someone who will never be FORGOTTEN! He is God's personal FRIEND!

Romans 4:3

3 For what does the Scripture say? Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

In this version of the bible "*accounted to him for righteousness*" and it does not translate the sentiment well.

When I was in the English Bible School, I learned it as "*right standing with God.*"

In other words,

He was accounted the right to stand with God
He was accounted as being *a person whom GOD TRUSTS.*

Abraham became God's ADVISER!

Think about this:

Abraham was God's personal FRIEND,
and God was Abraham's personal FRIEND.

Genesis 18 says that God appeared to Abraham in the form of three men - God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

God appeared to Abraham and then ATE with him!
It was a great HONOR!

Then God SAID:

*“Are we going to hide our plans from our friend?
We have seen that he will TEACH OUR WAYS to his
children and grandchildren, so he is a trustworthy
person.”*

Genesis 18

17 And the Lord said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing,

18 since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

19 For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him.

20 And the Lord said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave,

21 will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know.

God spoke to Abraham and told him that He would destroy Sodom and Gomorrah.

23 And Abraham came near and said, “Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

24 Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it?

25 Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

26 So the Lord said:

If I FIND in Sodom

fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.

Then Abraham, lowered the number until he came to ten righteous people. Then, God said that if he found 10 righteous people, he would not destroy the cities.

**That means, Abraham was God's ADVISER!
God LISTENED to one man!**

And God does not listen to many men!

But why did God listen to Abraham?

Because he was in a high position of trust!

God TRUSTED Abraham.

Can God trust all the believers?

Unfortunately, he cannot trust many!

Why? Many believers are selfish, they only go to church out of self-interest, they only think of their own needs. They have no gratitude at all in their hearts.

That is why Jesus also said,

*“These people praise with their lips,
but they do not praise with their hearts.”*

That is why lately God has been leading me to teach what God HATES.

In **Matthew 7:21**, Jesus said that many believers will not go to heaven!

- *“But I was a deacon, I helped at church, I even healed the sick.”*

- *No, DEPART from me, you who practiced INIQUITY.”*

What INIQUITY?

- putting your children before Jesus
- not going to church
- enjoying everything except being with God
- not having fellowship with God
- not reading any of the books from the Church
- not evangelizing
- LOVING other thing (the things of this world)

God DOES NOT TRUST a person who is like this because today they have one excuse and tomorrow they have another.

God even makes an effort to see if he is able to save a person like this.

But we have to UNDERSTAND that the great SECRET is having God as our FRIEND.

**I AM God's friend and
I want Him to BE my friend.**

Abraham is God's FRIEND and God is his friend.
Moses is God's FRIEND and God is his friend.

When we talk about GRATITUDE, we should think:

“Wow, God is the richest person in the universe, he's the most powerful, God is God. God WANTS to be my friend! What a great honour!”

**God WANTS to be YOUR FRIEND.
But HOW much of a FRIEND are you to God?
How much can God trust you?**

Many believers sing “*I love you Lord....*”
But do they really LOVE God?

We sing “*Lord prepare me, to be a sanctuary...*”
But do we really want God to USE us?

Because many believers sing this in vain.

How do we know that they sing in vain and not from the heart? We know this if they don't like to:

- Give their house for a Family Group
- Offer themselves to be a Family Group leader
- If they sow the MINIMUM possible, to be able to spend all their money on clothes etc.
- If they don't FEEL the love for lost souls
- If they don't come early to church
- If they don't do anything to help lost souls

Lately God has been giving me this revelation, that second law of God is to LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR.

For God, the real “GOLD,” are the souls:

if we want to be God's FRIEND, we have to LOVE the souls.

How do we as believers look at people in the world? When we go to a shopping centre and see that crowd, what do we think? *“Oh I don’t think anything...”*

There you go, you don’t care about them, you think it’s none of your business! You have the attitude of *“Let them die and go to hell!”*

How does God see a believer like that?

God will say that this believer is **IGNORANT** and He will not give him great blessings.

“Ah Apostle, what a radical message!”

But if you are a believer and you SAY you love God, how can you NOT CARE about what God cares about?

When you do something for God, you say
“Oh how tiring! How ANNOYING!”

A person like that will **NEVER** be great in life. You won’t see any difference between their lives and the lives of an unbeliever!

Being **GRATEFUL** is **THINKING** like this. Being grateful is not only **THANKING** God with words, but also with our **ACTIONS**.

It is THANKING God by doing things for Him with LOVE and JOY.

8. A SPIRIT of GRATITUDE in the CHURCH

There must also be this spirit of GRATITUDE in the church.

If a pastor DOES NOT HAVE this spirit of gratitude, the church will not grow.

But if the pastor has this spirit of gratitude,

this spirit will SHINE and he will speak about these things during his preaching, he will pass this spirit of GRATITUDE onto other people.

What will the RESULT be?

Everyone will be GRATEFUL towards God
Everyone will be GRATEFUL for their SALVATION
And the church WILL GROW

The church WILL GROW, but not because the pastor is very good but because God IS IN that church.

It is God who makes the CHURCH GROW!

It is NOT the pastor
It is NOT the praise group
It is NOT the leadership of the church

When a PASTOR loves God and only thinks about saving SOULS, what happens? God ENTERS the church and He BRINGS people, salvations, money, etc.

This spirit of GRATITUDE has to enter the hearts of the LEADERSHIP of the church.

When I gave my life to Jesus, I was part of a Family Group and there was a wonderful family who helped me. They had a true spirit of gratitude!

They were passionate for God, they were God-fearing, They served God and they honoured Him with their lives and with their offerings.

I thank God that I was accompanied by this wonderful family, because I learnt A LOT from them.

I learned not ONLY from the lessons they gave in the Family Group but;

from their relationship with God,
from the way they lived,
from the way they were,
from the SPIRIT of GRATITUDE they had.

They were always grateful to God; they were happy! So my exhortation is for you to be GRATEFUL to God and to have this spirit of GRATITUDE in your heart.

You will see that when you have this spirit of gratitude, not only will you be happier, but God will also bless you like never before.

GRATITUDE is a spirit, it means being GRATEFUL for everything I've talked about here in this chapter.

It's not just SAYING:

*“Thank you Go, because you gave me a loaf of bread,
a little fish, a blessing...”*

No! Gratitude is a SPIRIT.

A spirit in which I AM thankful to God because

- now I BELONG to God's family
- I am an IMPORTANT person in the Kingdom of God
- I was CALLED and CHOSEN by God
- God is MY FRIEND
- God TRUSTS me
- God COVERS my faults
- God does all this because I want to HELP God
- God does this for me because I don't want to DISPLEASE God

**Having a SPIRIT of GRATITUDE is
BEING GRATEFUL towards God.**