

## Thanksgiving Because of Who He Is

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite times of year! As a kid I loved getting together with family and of course eating all of the yummy food! As an adult, even though I still love to eat and spend time with family, I am beginning to develop an even deeper admiration for Thanksgiving. Living in a country that does not celebrate the holiday (which is the case for many of you), makes one really analyze what it is really all about and why we celebrate it. We were just recently at a church while traveling on furlough that had this saying on their sign, "Thanksgiving is not a holiday, it is a lifestyle!" That really struck me. I began to think about the Object of Thanksgiving. We are all thankful for many good and wonderful things, but the Object of our thanksgiving and praise is God Himself! It is because of the good God that He is that we have the blessings that we do. Only a loving God can forgive us of our sin, save us, give us an eternal home in Heaven, and bless us beyond what we can ask or think. If our thanksgiving and praise is based on God, then it will always be full and abundant. If our thanksgiving and praise is based on money, possessions, people, health, and other temporary things there will be times when it will be full and times when it will be empty. There will always be highs and lows, because of the sinful, broken world we live in. In this life, people will always be searching for security. Security can only be found when a person feels completely safe in an environment or condition that they know will always be that way. Many are completely frustrated and discouraged with their search because they are looking in the wrong places. The only security to be found is in God Himself. God never changes! We can rest assured that no matter how much this life can shift and change, like sifting sand, God never will! He is the Rock of our salvation! There have been many men all throughout history to find this to be true, but perhaps two with the most beautiful testimonies of this would David and Habakkuk in the Bible.

David wrote whole psalms about the greatness and perfection of God's character. One of the most beautiful psalms of thanksgiving is Psalm 100. Verse 4 says, "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name". David had many ups and downs in his life, but his praise to God remained the same, because he knew his God always remained the same! This is evident in Habakkuk's life as well, as he referred to God in Habakkuk 1:12 as "mine Holy One". He knew that he belonged to this great God. Despite the terrible outcome that was revealed to Habakkuk of the future of his people, he came to the conclusion in 3:18-19 that he would joy in the God of his salvation! What a comfort to know that no matter what season of life we may be in, we can always rejoice in our never changing, mighty God!