

Gratitude: Raising the Reading; Doctrine of Gratitude Gauge, Matthew 4:4, Deuteronomy 8:2-3

In the Church Age, gratitude is really the result of the mentorship of the Holy Spirit who makes clear to the positive believer the unique advantages he possesses.

When the believer chooses to utilize those advantages, he gradually develops happiness within his soul. This happiness results in his capacity for blessings.

The second generation acquired this happiness while the first did not. A zero reading caused the soul to be captured by the SWAT Team and emotional sins became the puppet dictator of their lives.

When the Jews looked at Moses and projected upon him blame for their circumstances, they were admitting to a zero gratitude-gauge readout. They blamed Moses for attempted genocide, they lusted for a return to Egypt, and they complained over the alleged poor quality of divine provisions.

How would a positive believer analyze these circumstances? First of all, regarding the genocide thing. Moses, as great a man as he was, did not have the wherewithal to override the unconditional covenants to Israel. If his true intent was genocide, a doctrinal rationale should have been quickly vectored reminding the Jews that God's veracity could not be compromised and therefore justice would be forced to execute Moses for being a threat to divine integrity.

Regarding the return to Egypt. To quote Paul in:

Philippians 3:13b - ... forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,

Philippians 3:14 - ... press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

You can't go back. Once saved, always saved. You're now in the plan of God. You must check your agenda at the door and submit to God's agenda. Paul, again, speaks of this in:

Philippians 4:11 - Not that I speak from want; for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstance I am.

Philippians 4:12 - I know how to get along with humble means and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.

Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

The final complaint is not so much over lack of provisions, for they were supplied on a daily basis, but the quality of the provisions. No one with any gratitude would condemn divine logistics. Once more we turn to Paul, this time in:

1 Timothy 4:4 - Everything created by God is good and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude [*eucharistia*];

1 Timothy 4:5 - for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer.

Claiming these verses, promises, and doctrines gives one capacity for life. Capacity develops in the soul of the one who is positive to God's agenda and not his own.

Self-righteous arrogance caused the first generation to rebel against Moses, lust for the security and safety of Egypt, and complain about the food of angels. In fact, no generation in history was the recipient of more miracles than this one yet the miracles had no positive impact on it. In fact, through them all, the first generation expressed no gratitude.

God led them out of the slavery of Egypt, defeated their slave masters at Little Bitter Lake, provided sweetened water at Marah, and manna which originally appeared at the Wilderness of Sin. None of these had any impact in fact their gratitude gauges remained at zero. They remained bitter in their souls, wrought with self-pity, and irrational in their thinking.

It is a shocking thing to observe the lengths to which the negative believer will go in order to justify his wrong decisions. Convinced he is right and willing to lie to himself in order to remain so, the negative believer projects false accusations against leadership, runs to the false security of his own personal Egypt, and complains when God's agenda is not compatible with his own preconceived agenda.

K. Doctrine of the Gratitude Gauge Introduction

The Gratitude Gauge is measured in increments which indicate one's advance in the spiritual life. The concept of an increasing sense of gratitude towards God emerges from three passages of Scripture:

Matthew 4:4 - But He [Jesus Christ] answered [to Satan] and said, "It stands written [Deuteronomy 8:3], 'This man [true humanity of Jesus Christ] shall not live only on bread but on the basis of every word that proceeds out from the mouth of God'"

1. Jesus Christ had been 40 days without food.
2. Satan was tempting the Lord to ignore His mission in the Incarnation and opt to solve his problems not from the problem-solving devices of the prototype spiritual life but by the utilization of His own divine essence.
3. This would have violated the principle of Kenosis.
4. In His defense against this temptation our Lord responded to Satan by quoting a passage of Scripture which acknowledges two things:
 - a. The human species is sustained by food which is a constant necessity for the maintenance of physical life.
 - b. However, the physical body is only the temporary residence for the soul which has everlasting life.
 - c. Logic dictates that when given a choice, preservation of one's spiritual life which is everlasting takes top priority over one's physical life which is temporal.
 - d. The Lord in His true humanity chose to stay with the divine promise of logistical provision rather than abort His mission in order to sustain the body.
 - e. His rationale was that as a Man, He does not live only on bread but more importantly on the basis of every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.
5. These are the very words the Lord Himself spoke to the Jews as they wandered without food in the very same Jornada in which He is being tested.
6. He challenged them to depend upon divine provision while standing fast in the Word:

Deuteronomy 8:2 - You shall remember all the way the Lord God led you in the *Jornada* these forty years in order that He might humble you, testing you to know what is in your stream of consciousness, whether or not you would keep His imperative moods.

Deuteronomy 8:3 - Therefore, He humbled you; He both caused you to hunger then He fed you with manna, which you did not know and your ancestors did not know, in order that He might cause you to understand that man does not live only by bread but man lives by means of everything that proceeds out of the mouth of God.

7. As God provided the Jews of the Exodus with daily manna in the *Jornada*, He likewise provided that same manna to the Lord in that same *Jornada*.

Matthew 4:11 - Then the devil left Him; and behold angels came and began to minister to Him.

8. We know the angels fed him manna because of:

Psalm 78:24 - The Lord rained down manna upon them to eat and gave them food from heaven.

Psalm 78:25 - Man did eat the bread of angels.

9. In the same way the Jews were tested in the *Jornada* in order to see if they would remain loyal to the Word of God, so the Lord was also tested in that same *Jornada* to see if He would remain loyal to the Word as well.

Hebrews 2:18 - Since He [Christ] Himself was tempted in that which He suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

Hebrews 4:15 - We do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.