

GIVING THANKS

COLOSSIANS 1:12a

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: Heart felt thanks to the Father is a mark of a dynamic personal relationship with Jesus. Paul prayed that the Colossians (and you) would possess this quality.

TO THE FATHER intimates a personal relationship that grows with dialogues of thankfulness. This includes a humble awareness of God's never-ending provision of grace; and His continuous presence keeps you filled with the Holy Spirit and overflowing with thankfulness. (**Colossians 1:12a, Colossians 3:17, Ephesians 5:20, fn 5:20, Psalms 92:1, 2, fn 92:1, 2, Romans 1:20, 21, I Thessalonians 5:16-18, fn 5:16-18**) *How could a daily dialogue of thankfulness keep you filled with the Holy Spirit?*

FOR THE PAST—His power, His grace enabled you to endure difficult people and difficult circumstances with joy and for that you are thankful. God uses your past to teach you to trust Him with the present. (**Colossians 1:12, Colossians 1:11, Philippians 4:4-7, 11-13, fn 4:10-14, II Corinthians 12:7-10, fn 12:9, II Corinthians 2:14, fn 2:14ff, II Timothy 2:1, fn 2:1**) *Who or what past difficult person or circumstance do you need to thank the Father for? How will God's strength help you?*

FOR THE FUTURE—The Father declares you *qualified*. "The standing of the believer in Christ is here in view, not his Christian character." Kenneth S. Wuest, Word Studies in the New Testament, Volume I (Ephesians and Colossians), p. 179. You are qualified (fit) for heaven. You cannot help but give thanks when you realize that your salvation is eternally secure. (**Colossians 1:12a, II Corinthians 3:1-6, fn 3:4, 5, II Corinthians 5:1-10, fn 5:5, Romans 8:14-18, fn 8:14-17, Revelation 21:1-6, fn 21:3, 4**) *What is it about heaven that you are most thankful for?*

Check up—Are you praying with your spouse and your family? Group—Pray for personal requests and bond together by fellowshiping together.