

BETHANKFUL

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- **God promised that He would never leave you nor forsake you. His faithfulness is something to always be thankful for. *Matt. 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.***
- **He is there before you fall and after you fail. The problem comes when we hurt our own self worth by making bad decisions based on the opinions of others. *Gal. 1:10 For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.***
- **In these instances, we may feel discouraged, which can result in unthankfulness. We begin to base our thankfulness on our circumstances versus our true value and worth. *Eph. 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;***



- **When we live to please others, we cannot be thankful, unless we have what pleases them. Most people are not pursuing goals for themselves, but only to prove their value to others. *Is 2:22 Stop regarding man in whose nostrils is breath, for of what account is he?***
- **This behavior led Lucifer to his fall from the Kingdom of Heaven. He chose to invest in his look and appearance to others instead of who God created him to be. *Is14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.***
- **The fall of man was predicated on mankind trying to excel in the eyes of others. The desire to be lifted up before men is the enemy of genuine thankfulness for who God created us to be. *Gen. 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.***



- **Mankind was content in their creation roles until the enemy sowed selfish ambition into their minds. Today, this same selfish ambition is causing men and women to fall from God. *Phil. 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:***
- **God's plan cannot be avoided without consequence. When we attempt to ignore the roles God created us in, we are defying our existence and will eventually wreak havoc on our lineage. *Prov. 16:25 There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.***
- **Being thankful for our creation roles is the first step in avoiding a life full of striving to acquire things, that will please others. *Gen. 5:2 Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.***



SUMMARY

In heaven, Lucifer sought to be lifted up above the stars of God and be like the Most High. But, he fell from heaven's realm like lightning and was demoted from his position among the heavenly hosts of God. So, he decided to tempt mankind to do the same thing he did. Even today, he lives vicariously through humans to get his will accomplished by making them feel they should be lifted up above what God purposed for them. This is the story for so many today. The decisions they make are solely based on the opinions of others and their selfish ambition instead of the true creation roles God gave them.

Adam and Eve abandoned their roles to become greater because they were led astray by a being that did the same and failed. Why do we take our cues from people that failed in their own plights? They abandoned their creation roles to strive for more and it cost them marriages, contentment, and peace! In most cases, it produced wayward children, physical ailments, and even caused many to abandon the faith. I know we like to ask "why in the world did Eve listen to that serpent?" but the real question is, "why in the world are we listening to those that abandoned God's plan and have no positive fruit to show for it?" True thankfulness can only come from those that bear the fruit of contentment. This means that they do not live for the opinions of others and they NEVER measure their lives and decisions by what others are doing. Being thankful must first begin with being thankful for the roles that God created us in and abiding in them!

James 3:13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

James 3:14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

James 3:15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

James 3:16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

James 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

James 3:18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.