**Giving Thanks Before Acting (Daniel 2:20-30)**

***20****Daniel answered and said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might.****21****He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding;* ***22****he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him.* ***23****To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for you have given me wisdom and might, and have now made known to me what we asked of you, for you have made known to us the king's matter.”*

***24****Therefore Daniel went in to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: “Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; bring me in before the king, and I will show the king the interpretation.”*

***25****Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste and said thus to him: “I have found among the exiles from Judah a man who will make known to the king the interpretation.”****26****The king declared to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, “Are you able to make known to me the dream that I have seen and its interpretation?”****27****Daniel answered the king and said, “No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked,****28****but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these:****29****To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would be after this, and he who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to be.****30****But as for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because of any wisdom that I have more than all the living, but in order that the interpretation may be made known to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your mind.” (Daniel 2:20-30, ESV)*

 Giving thanks reminds us of God’s identity. Greetings dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as we investigate an important instance of giving thanks in the Bible today. In general, we often give thanks after receiving something. Sometimes, our expectations are so high from God that we forget the importance of who He is; we forget His attributes, His character traits, His good and holy personality. Sometimes we forget that our faith is not based on seeing results or on material proofs, but rather on God’s identity and ability. Today we’re going to talk about thankfulness as an important expression of that faith. Again, giving thanks reminds us of God’s identity. Let’s move to some details…

 Giving thanks rights our spiritual focus. The account of Daniel is a true example of faith and trust in God for us. It was the era of the exile for the Jews, and the prophet Daniel had stayed faithful to God in his prayers and faith-life, despite the foreign surroundings. The surrounding wrong pagan concepts had not prevailed over him. We see his faith in the prayer (in the passage above), after which we see the results come forth as the interpretation of the king’s dream. We see that Daniel first gives thanks for the wisdom and strength that he has received from God. At the same time, he acknowledges God’s absolute power and sovereignty. He remembers his absolute rule over all nations, especially their kings, and His deep revelations and omniscience. He gives thanks that he has already received the needed answer for his prayer, before going before the king and conveying the revelation…

 A preacher going to a country church one Sunday morning, was overtaken by a deacon who remarked, "What a bitterly cold morning, sir. I am sorry the weather is so wintry." "Oh," replied the minister, "I was just thanking God for keeping His Word." The man stared at him. "What do you mean?" he asked. "W ell, over three thousand years ago God promised that cold and heat should not cease, so I am strengthened by this weather to emphasize the sureness of His promises.”

 What about us? Just like in the prophet Daniel’s case, sometimes the Lord is going to give us a specific direction, inspiration, or an impression. When that kind of revelation is given as an answer to our prayers or as a solution to our current difficulties, what is it that we do as a first step? Do we immediately move to acting on that revelation, or do we give thanks to the Revealer first? Do we have time to give the glory and honor to the Lord, which belong to Him? When we know what to do after a time of prayer, do we stop for a moment and recognize the Lord’s doing and His identity out of which His actions flow?

 When we glorify the Lord, and when we give Him thanks, our spiritual focus is renewed and put in the right path.

 Giving thanks to God reminds us of His identity. Let us give glory to God before ever beginning any sort of work. The Lord Bless You All. Amen.