



## *A Thankful Heart*

Have you ever noticed how many things we take for granted? Think about it for a moment. We live in a world filled with messages of entitlement and even businesses direct their marketing efforts toward our "it's all about me" attitudes.

Let's check our hearts for a moment and see if our thoughts and speech reveal a pattern.

Are you grateful for your husband ~ or are you "fed up with the old coot"?

Do you tell your wife how much you appreciate her ~ or do you just reply "I love you too" when prompted?

Have you spent any quality time with your child lately ~ or are they more familiar with prime time programming on weeknight TV?

Are you truly grateful for your job, especially in today's economy ~ or do you dread going to work?

Are you excited at the dawn of each new day ~ or is it a real struggle to get going?

Are you looking forward to your future ~ or is the enemy keeping you focused on your past?

Do any of these thoughts sound familiar?

Do daily routines and circumstances keep you bogged down and rob your joy?

There's hope in the form of an old stand-by from Chuck Swindoll...  
Count Your Blessings!

Quite literally, sit down and take an inventory of everything you are grateful for in your life and name each blessing out loud with a heart of thanks.

Friends, I know it can be difficult at times to feel gratitude for our circumstances – but if any of the thoughts above ring a bell it means we have already taken the time to ponder how ungrateful we are.

I don't know what you are facing today or what events from the recent past may have you bound up inside ~ but please, take a moment to recognize the weapons at work in your daily walk and take a moment to reflect on what you have been given by grace and be glad in it.

Follow the teachings of the Psalmist when he wrote, *"Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving. Let us shout joyfully to Him with Psalms."* ~ Psalm 95:2