

A Grateful Church

Tomorrow we give thanks—but not as isolated individuals. We give thanks as a church body made up of Pauls, Barnabases, and Timothys.

- Pauls – the spiritual parents, wise ones, builders, and founders.
- Barnabases – the encouragers, supporters, and stabilizers of the church.
- Timothys – the next generation, emerging leaders, young believers.
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Every healthy church needs all three. And when all three generations express gratitude together, unity is strengthened and the church becomes a force for the next year.

I. **THE PAULS** – “Gratitude Through Legacy”

2 Timothy 4:7-8 “I have fought the good fight... finished the race... kept the faith.”

What They’re Feeling

- “Is my work still valued?”
- “Will the next generation protect the truth?”
- “Is the church changing faster than I can accept?”
- “Have I done enough?”

Pauls often carry the weight of years, the burden of tradition, and the fear of decline.

How Pauls Can Express Gratitude

1. Give Thanks for God’s Faithfulness Through the Years

Psalms 37:25 – “I was young and now am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken.”

Gratitude becomes a testimony: “God has carried me this far, and He’s not done with us.”

2. Give Thanks by Speaking Blessing Over the Next Generation

Pauls imitate Moses, who laid hands on Joshua (Deut. 34:9).

When Pauls bless Timothys, the church gains courage.

3. Give Thanks by Sharing Their Story

Psalms 71:18 – “Even to old age... let me declare Your strength to another generation.”

Your story becomes someone else’s faith-builder.

A Word to the Pauls

- Your gratitude is the plumb line of the house.
- You do not fade—you father.
- You do not retire—you refire.



A Grateful Church

II. THE BARNABASES – “Gratitude Through Encouragement”

Barnabas – Acts 11:23-24 “He encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.”

What They’re Feeling

- “Am I doing enough?”
- “Who is encouraging me?”
- “I feel stuck between the old and the new.”
- “My faithfulness is unnoticed.”
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Barnabases live in the tension: help the Pauls, support the Timothys, carry the load.

How Barnabases Can Express Gratitude

1. Give Thanks by Encouraging Someone Purposefully

Barnabas’s ministry was simple: encourage (Acts 11:23).

Encouragement is thanksgiving aimed at another person.

2. Give Thanks by Staying Faithful in the Middle

Gal. 6:9 – “Let us not grow weary in doing good.”

Barnabases often sustain the church through quiet, steady sacrifice.

3. Give Thanks by Celebrating What God Is Doing in Others

Barnabas celebrated Saul when no one else trusted Saul.

He celebrated Mark when Paul gave up on him.

Your gratitude releases new grace over others.

A Word to the Barnabases

- Your gratitude is the glue that holds the generations together.
- Without you, the family falls apart.



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III. THE TIMOTHYS – “Gratitude Through Growth”

Timothy – 1 Timothy 4:12 “Let no one despise your youth, but set an example...”

What They’re Feeling

- “Do I belong here?”
- “Is this church for me?”
- “Am I too young? Not spiritual enough?”
- “What difference can I possibly make?”

Timothys fear:

- rejection,
- insignificance,
- being overlooked.

How Timothys Can Express Gratitude

1. Give Thanks by Honoring Those Who Came Before

Exodus 20:12 – “Honor your father and mother.”

Honor isn’t old-fashioned—it’s kingdom culture.

2. Give Thanks by Showing Up With Teachability

Prov. 9:9 – “Teach a wise man, and he will be wiser still.”

Teachability is gratitude in action.

3. Give Thanks by Serving with Joy

Timothy served Paul “like a son with his father” (Phil. 2:22).

Serving is worship—gratitude with sleeves rolled up.

A Word to the Timothys

- Your gratitude is the spark that ignites the future.
- You don’t fit in because you’re supposed to grow in.



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IV. HOW GRATITUDE BRINGS UNITY ACROSS GENERATIONS

When every generation gives thanks in their unique way:

GRATITUDE BREAKS SUSPICION

- Pauls stop fearing the future.
- Barnabases stop carrying silent burdens.
- Timothys stop fearing they don't belong.
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GRATITUDE BUILDS HONOR

- Honor flows up, down, and across.
- We celebrate stories, strength, and potential.
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GRATITUDE MAKES US A FORCE

A grateful church is an:

- unshakeable church
- revival-ready church
- multi-generational powerhouse
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Psalm 133:1 – “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people dwell together in unity... for there the Lord commanded the blessing.”

Unity is the breeding ground of blessing.

CLOSING CALL – “Three Generations, One Thanksgiving Song”

Pauls: “Lift your hands and thank Him for every year He has carried you.”

Barnabases: “Speak thanksgiving by blessing someone near you.”

Timothys: “Offer thanksgiving by dedicating your life and future to God.”

Then bring everyone together: “Three generations—one voice—giving thanks to one Lord.

This is how **Liberty Church** steps into the next year with power.”

