

He Gave Thanks Knowing What the Bread and Wine Meant

Written by Bill Perkins

"He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them,
saying, 'This is my body given for you?'" Luke 22:19-20 -
Jesus gave thanks knowing what the bread and wine meant.
The bread pointed to His body-offered like seed falling into the earth.
The wine to His blood, poured out-a river that never runs dry.

He did not give thanks for pain-
He gave thanks for the Father's love,
for the chance to redeem,
for the chance to liberate,
for the joy set before Him,
the joy of glorifying the Father,
the joy of victory over sin and death,
the joy of sitting at the Father's right hand.

He held the symbols of sacrifice
and still gave thanks-
like a gardener planting grain
that must die to rise again.

This Thanksgiving, I'm remembering that moment.
Not just the table -
but the faith that enabled Him to give thanks,
knowing what was coming.

Jesus didn't wait for comfort.
He gave thanks in surrender.
In purpose.
In love.

You may not know this about Jesus:
He gave thanks knowing what the bread and wine meant.

How can I give thanks not just for what is answered -
but for what God uses to stretch me,
humble me,
and make me more like Him?

I want my gratitude to echo His.

Not shallow.

Not sentimental.

But anchored in faith.

I want to thank God not only for blessings,
but for the places where love costs something -
and still gives.

Father, thank You for Jesus -

for the bread He gave,

the cup He lifted,

and the love He poured out.

Thank You for all I receive because of His sacrifice:

forgiveness that reaches my worst moments,

grace that covers my shame,

peace that holds me in the storm,

and hope that outlasts the grave.

Teach me to give thanks not only when life feels full,
but when it feels fragile.

Let my gratitude rise from faith,

not circumstance - from knowing You are good,

even when the road is hard.

This Thanksgiving, deepen my worship.

Quiet my fears.

Awaken my heart to the beauty of Your love.

In Jesus' name. Amen.