



TBM Newsletter –  
Q3/2024

Inspire, Influence  
and Impact Lives  
for Christ

By Brandon PEK

In this Newsletter...	Page
Thanksgiving and Worship	1-2
Celebrating Covenant Marriages	2-3
Praise & Thanksgiving Report and General Announcements	3

## Thanksgiving and Worship

*This following is an extract from e-book on “Giving Thanks: Deepen Our Faith and Personal Walk with God”.*

Thanksgiving is an annual national holiday in USA and Canada celebrating the harvest and other blessings of the past year. It's on the fourth Thursday in November each year to remember God's goodness and blessings one received.

And while it has historical roots in religious and cultural traditions, it is now celebrated by many in those countries as a secular holiday. But the concept of “Thanksgiving” did not start in the USA or Canada.

Many people believe that Thanksgiving was modelled after an Old Testament harvest feast when the final fruits and crops of the season were gathered and stored, and God's people gave thanks for the end of the harvest year and the bounty of the land.

This festival took place way back in time after the Israelite people entered the Promised Land. It was called the “Feast of Tabernacles (or Booths)” and celebrated over a seven-day period (Deuteronomy 16:13-15, 26:1-19).

However, thanksgiving was not just an annual event in the Old Testament but regular offerings that involved praise and worship. In the New Testament, believers are called to give thanks as a way of life.

Thanksgiving is spiritual, involving both praise and worship. It deepens our faith life and enriches our relationship with God, remembering His goodness in our lives and having confidence in His grace and mercy, and enduring love for us.

### Offerings in Old and New Testaments

In the Old Testament, thanksgiving was interwoven with the worship of God through three of five major sacrificial offerings (Leviticus 6:8-30, 7:1-19):

- Burnt Offering: it is the first of the voluntary offerings to express thanks, worship, devotion, and commitment to God. But it was also an atonement for unintentional sin
- Grain/Meal Offering: also voluntary to express gratitude and thanksgiving, recognizing the Lord's favour, unmerited goodwill and provision towards the one who made the offer.
- Peace/Fellowship Offering: again, voluntary and offered for fulfilled vow, general thankfulness and/or specific blessing, emphasizing fellowship, as it was followed by a shared meal.



The remaining two offerings of Sin and Trespass Offerings were mandatory for atonement for sins and cleansing from defilement, the former for personal sins and the latter for trespasses against someone else.

For God's people, the five offerings were symbolic of the messianic age to come, which has since been fulfilled by the sacrificial Lamb of God. Our Lord Jesus had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, and there is no need to offer any more animal sacrifices (Hebrews 10:11-14).

Now, in the new covenant of His blood, we are to continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name, and making voluntary offerings, not through the Old

Testament type of offerings but through one or more of these examples:

- Doing good in words and deeds as unto the Lord and to share as we give thanks to His name (Hebrews 13:16, Matthew 25:40 ).
- Offering our lives and bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20).
- Tithing faithfully to our own local church or movement for the work of the ministry (Malachi 3:10, Proverbs 3:9).
- Giving voluntarily and cheerfully financial offerings for kingdom purposes (2 Corinthians 9:7, Romans 12:13).
- Helping the weak among us, look after the fatherless, orphans and widows in need (Acts 20:35, James 1:27).

### Thankfulness as a Way of Life

Instead of doing it once a year on Thanksgiving Day, the Word of God tells us to give thanks without ceasing and in all circumstances; not just one day in the year, or when things are looking good and the future seems bright; not just as a time of gathering among friends, drinking and feasting.

Rather, be thankful in all things, every circumstance and at all times for it is the will of God for us (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Often times, we give thanks only when we feel happy, or when things seem good and are going our way. However, thanksgiving in the bible is not a matter of feeling, or how well we perceive things to be in the present or the future. We ought to also give thanks when things aren't going our way just like the Psalmist who proclaimed it to be when he was in trouble (Psalms 69:30).

Thanksgiving in the bible is faith-based that pleases God – not faith in faith but faith in Christ Jesus and His finished work. Our faith rests in the new covenant that we have with God, in the precious blood of Jesus and sealed with the Holy Spirit.

Thanksgiving is directed at and towards God our Father who sent His Son to save us. He is a covenant making and covenant keeping God. He is faithful to His Word and this new covenant we now have in and through His Son our Lord Jesus.

Thanksgiving involves the sacrifice of praise to God for what He has done on the Cross and in our lives. But, do not forget to do good and share His goodness, for He desire mercy and with such sacrifices God is well pleased (Hebrews 13:15-16).

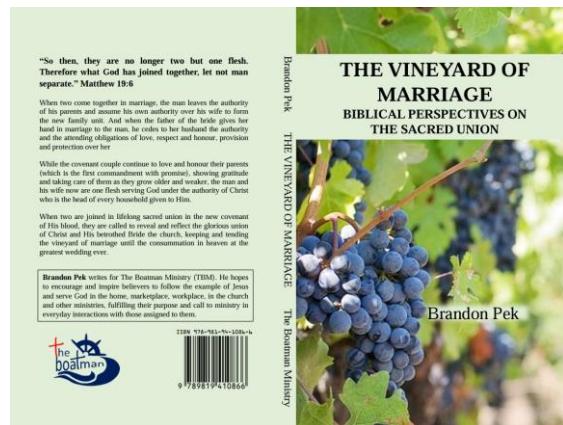
Thanksgiving is in the “now and here”, worshipping in Spirit and in Truth to God our Father, not on this mountain or that, but where we are seeking Him in prayer at anytime and anywhere, and in every circumstance (John 4:23-24).

Thanksgiving is a way of life, making voluntary offerings in true and proper worship to God.

*See General Announcements section on how you can receive the e-book.*

## Celebrating Covenant Marriages

*“The Vineyard of Marriage” was released on September 2024, sharing biblical perspectives on the sacred union the way God designed and intended for husbands and wives to enjoy as they lived out their married lives glorifying God.*



The book of Genesis tells of the first ever wedding held in the garden of Eden when God gave Adam the woman whom He made for him:

*“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.” Genesis 2:24-25*

Marriage was to reflect the relationship between God and His crown jewels of creation. But the enemy caused the fall of mankind and along with them, the perfect marriage.

The book of Revelation tells of the greatest ever wedding to be held in heaven between the Lamb and His Bride the church whom God the Father gave Him:

*“Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” Revelation 19:7*

Marriage in the new covenant of His blood reveals and reflects the union of Christ and His Bride the church to be consummated in the Holy finale, the glorious marriage.

This book surveys God's design of the holy institution of marriage between one man and one woman, and what He intended it to be since the beginning for covenant couples coming together in the lifelong one flesh sacred union.

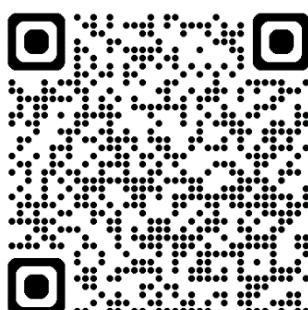
Likening marriage to a vineyard, it looks at the sacred union in the new covenant of His blood where our Lord Jesus is the true vine of every marriage that is committed to reveal and reflect the glorious union of Christ and His betrothed Bride the church.

"The Vineyard of Marriage" draws from both Old and New Testaments teachings to show God's design and intentions for covenant marriages, outlining the purpose, principles and prohibitions concerning the sacred union. It also warns of the seeds of discord that the enemy first sowed in the garden of Eden that still cause marital strife to this day and even breakdown in marriages.

This book addresses how covenant couples can be faithful and fruitful gardeners in their own vineyards, glorifying God and enjoying their marriages as they cultivate their relationship with God and each other through the three disciplines of growing spiritual intimacy, decision to love and responding in love and building soulmate connection.

It explains how marriage is of first importance under God among human relationships, and the need to remove seeds of discord and protect the union from noxious weeds for the sowing of righteous seeds and their continuous care to grow tender fruits in the vineyard of marriage.

In the name of our Lord Jesus, let every vineyard of covenant marriage bear much fruit in bountiful harvests, constantly approximating the standards in God's design and following His instructions for this holy institution until the coming marriage of the Lamb to His glory.



Scan this QR code and order your copy of "The Vineyard of Marriage" today..... and join us for on 30 October 2024, 8pm (Wednesday) for the official book launch via zoom.

Or you can visit the following website:

<https://tbn-bp.com/book-launch/>

## Praise & Thanksgiving Report

- Blessed to serve as facilitator-coach for the July-October "Man of Impact (MOI)" course run. The course started on 17 July and ending on 23 October 2024, Wednesday.



- Invited as part of three-member panel to share the MOI journey and its impact at Ignite Gathering "Life Impacting Lives" organised by the team from The Significant Project of Cru Singapore. The lunch event was held on 24 August, Saturday.
- Giving thanks to God for 30 years of blissful marriage to Jean, my beloved wife and covenant life partner. We had the opportunity to share God's goodness with extended family during the Mooncake-cum-Wedding Anniversary gathering on 14 September, Saturday.

## General Announcements

### Upcoming Events / Prayer Requests:

- Man of Impact (MOI) Alumni group meeting scheduled for 22 October 2024, Tuesday, 8pm via zoom. Open to past and current participants.
- "The Vineyard of Marriage" official book launch scheduled for 30 October, Wednesday. Scan the QR code to order the book. Look out for e-poster.
- Prayer: Opportunity to sow kingdom seeds in the hearts of those God assigned us during these upcoming Christmas and New Year celebrations.

### E-booklets Give-away

Go to this link <https://tbn-bp.com/resources-events> to request an e-copy of "Give Thanks: Deepen Our Faith and Personal Walk with God". Allow 3 working days for it to be sent to your registered email.

Blessings,  
Brandon PEK  
The Boatman Ministry