



AWCI SERMON NOTE & Announcements

DATE: Nov. 23rd, 2025 at 9am & 11am Service

SPEAKER: Bishop (Dr.) Vincent Collins

SERMON SERIES: SHIFT – A New Season of Divine Favor

SERMON TITLE: When the Heart Shifts, Everything Shifts

Visit www.agapeworship.org/resources to access a digital copy or scan the QR Code.

INTRODUCTION, BACKGROUND, AND SCRIPTURE

Primary Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (NIV)

“16 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

When Paul writes to the church in Thessalonica, he is not speaking to a people sitting in comfort. He is writing to a young, fragile group of believers who are trying to follow Jesus in the middle of pressure, persecution, and uncertainty. They are facing cultural resistance, relational tension, and a future filled with questions they cannot answer.

Paul is teaching the church—and teaching us—that when your heart becomes grateful, prayerful, and joyful, the entire climate of your life begins to shift. You stop living by what you feel, and you start living by what you know: God is faithful. God is near. God is working. This is the kind of heart that attracts favor, opens the door to revival, and makes room for the miraculous. Before God shifts your season, He shifts your heart.

Supporting Scriptures:

- Psalm 100:4 (NLT) – “Enter His gates with thanksgiving; go into His courts with praise.”
- Ephesians 5:20 (NLT) – “Give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

SERMON POINTS

Point 1: Thankfulness Shifts Your Perspective

1 Thessalonians 5:16 (NIV) – “Rejoice always.”

Paul tells us, “Rejoice always,” not because life is always easy, but because joy begins with a choice.

- Psalm 34:1 (NIV) – “I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise will always be on my lips.”
- Philippians 4:6–7 – When we bring everything to God with thanksgiving, His peace protects our hearts and minds—even before anything around us changes.

Thankfulness doesn’t ignore reality; it changes how we see it. A thankful heart looks for God’s hand even in hard places.

Point 2: Faithfulness Positions You for Divine Favor

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NIV) – “Pray continually.”

Prayer is the posture of a heart that stays connected to God no matter what is happening.

- Matthew 7:7 – “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened.”
- Jeremiah 33:3 (NIV) – “Call to Me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.”
- James 5:16 (NLT) – “The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.”

Faithfulness in prayer keeps you aligned with God’s heart and positions you to receive His favor.

Point 3: Thankfulness + Faithfulness Create a Climate for Revival

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV) – “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

Revival isn’t accidental—it’s the result of a heart aligned with God’s will. Stay thankful. Stay faithful. And watch God shift everything around you.

- 2 Chronicles 20:21–22 (NIV) – “As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes... and they were defeated.”
- Psalm 50:23 (NLT) – “But giving thanks is a sacrifice that truly honors Me. If you keep to My path, I will reveal to you the salvation of God.”

Acts 16 (Paul and Silas):

Paul and Silas were beaten, chained, and locked away, yet they chose to pray and sing. Their praise became thankfulness, and their endurance became faithfulness. And suddenly—the atmosphere shifted. Chains snapped. Doors flew open. A jailer and his entire family found salvation. That is revival.

BEYOND THE MESSAGE: APPLICATION

1. Thankfulness: Choosing a New Lens

Choosing thankfulness is choosing to see differently. Paul isn’t giving us a soft suggestion—he’s giving us a spiritual strategy.

Every day we wake up with two lenses in front of us:

- The lens of frustration or the lens of faith
- The lens of what’s wrong or the lens of what God can make right

Gratitude doesn’t deny reality; it redirects our focus. It trains our hearts to look for God even when life doesn’t make sense.

Reflection Question:

What will you choose to focus on this week? Will you stare at the dirt beneath you or lift your eyes to the sky above you?

Thankfulness changes your perspective... and your perspective changes your life.

2. Prayer: Shifting Your Position

Prayer is more than words you speak—it's the posture of your heart.

When Paul says, "Pray continually," he isn't telling us to spend every hour on our knees; he's inviting us into a lifestyle where our hearts remain connected to God all day long.

Prayer shifts your position and opens space for God to step in. Prayer doesn't just shift your position—it shifts the atmosphere around you.

Application Questions:

- What are you inviting into your life?
- If you want peace, are you praying?
- If you want clarity, are you praying?
- If you want strength, are you praying?

If you want God's will, pray until your will aligns with His. Prayer shifts your position so God can shift your entire season.

3. Revival: Creating a Climate Where God Can Move

When Paul says, "This is God's will for you," he is showing us that thankfulness and faithfulness are not optional—they are essential to living in God's favor.

- A grateful heart creates an open space for God to work.
- A faithful life builds the foundation for Him to move.

Together, gratitude and faithfulness create a spiritual climate where revival becomes inevitable.

In Acts 16, Paul and Silas didn't wait for their situation to improve before praising God—they sang in chains. They prayed in prison. Their thankfulness sparked something in the atmosphere, and their faithfulness held them steady until God sent the earthquake. Chains fell off, doors opened, and an entire family was saved. That is what revival looks like when hearts stay grateful and lives stay faithful.

Closing Challenge:

Are you creating a climate where God can move?

Because when gratitude rises and faithfulness remains, God releases favor, breakthrough, healing, salvation, and supernatural growth.

Revival isn't accidental—it's the result of a heart aligned with God's will.

Stay thankful. Stay faithful. And watch God shift everything around you.

NOTES

We Need Your Help & Support With:

Agape Love Project Hurricane Relief for Jamaica

Hurricane Melissa has devastated communities across Jamaica. Many families urgently need our help!

The Following are Essential Items Needed for Donations:

- Non-perishable food, Bottled water
- Hygiene products (soap, toothpaste, sanitary items)
- Blankets & bedding, Clothing & shoes
- Baby supplies (diapers, formula, wipes)
- First aid items, Flashlights & batteries
- Portable chargers & power banks
- Cleaning supplies (disinfectant, gloves, trash bags)
- Tarps & basic repair tools,
- Mosquito repellent & insect spray,
- Pet food & supplies

For info: Bro. Eureka Washington, or Dr. Samuel King

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please note: There are multiple ways to sign up for an event. You can scan the QR code, visit our website, or sign the signup sheet in the foyer under the event registration section.

Nov.23rd at 4 pm-6 pm - Agape's Youth Ministry: Teensgiving. For more information, contact Bro. Jonathan Hampton.

Nov. 25th at 6:30 pm- Night of Giving Thanks

Nov. 30th at 5:00pm- Agape's Young Adult Ministry: Pins & Praise Party (*Bowling Event at Royal Z Lanes*). For more info. contact Sis. Essence Washington

Dec. 6th at 9am -12pm- Money Matters: Practical Skills for Managing, Growing, and Protecting Your Wealth with Leo N. Scott Jr. (JR Scott), Former Vice President and Retail Banking Manager at Bank of America. Scan QR and sign up today.



Dec. 7th at 11 am Service- Baby Dedication. Scan QR Code to Sign up today



Dec.7th- at 5:00 pm - Women's Ministry : Christmas Party/Ugly Sweater Event

Dec. 14th- Christmas Cantata during the 9 am and 11 am service.

Registration for the Jamaica Mission Trip is currently open. For more information, contact Missionary Director, Dr. Samuel King.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH & FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

Sunday School

- Every Sunday at 10:10 am-10:55 am.
- Scan QR Code to Sign Up
 - A digital copy of the Sunday School book will be sent to you.



Men's Ministry Meeting

- Every 3rd Saturday at 8:30 AM.
- At Agape Worship Center International
- All men are invited.
- More information: Contact Deacons Teddy Spence or Eureka Washington.

Breakfast For Champions: Weekday Devotion & Prayer

- Monday-Friday at 7 am
- Call In: 717-908-1690
 - Access Code: 577625

Intercessory Prayer

- Every 1st, 2nd, and 4th Monday at 6:30 pm-7:30 pm

Virtual Midday Bible Study

- Every Thursday at noon
 - Call In: (470)869-2200 (US East)
 - Meeting ID: 393-678-9202
 - Virtual:meetings.ringcentral.com/j/3936789202

CONNECT, GROW, BELONG!

Whether you're a first-time guest or a long-time member, we invite everyone to fill out our Connect Card—just scan the QR code to update your information, share prayer requests, and take your next step, whether that's joining a membership class, signing up for baptism, finding a life group, volunteering, or simply learning more about our church.

