

**Word notes Sunday 13/2/2011 Roy Wheeler**  
**Being Thankful**

**Summary** (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

**Key Text: Hebrews 12:28**

This letter is written to early Jewish Christians going through a tough time, some were even contemplating going back to Judaism because of the persecution they were encountering. The writer compares the encounter between the Jewish peoples and God at Mt Sinai and Mt Zion representing the Old and New Covenants. In the former God spoke and it brought fear and trembling, in the later God spoke and brought forth blessing after blessing. We too are experiencing a time of shaking – at the moment it's the lifestyle an nation reliant on debt for growth and an ever increasing stock market to drive it. The shaking of those systems has lead to big name firms going bust, job losses, public sector services being cut, home repossessions and all the impact on individuals that brings. What is the response of the Christian?

In verse 25 the writer says not to resist God's word as they did because this will lead to consequences but rather since we now in habit a kingdom that cannot be shaken (v27 & 28) **be thankful**.

**Being Thankful is**

- an attitude within – Luke 6:45, Prov 4:23
- an appreciation expressed – Col 3:15-17
- an advance thank you – Phil 4:6

**Being Thankful at all times is:**

1. God's command to us - Col.3:15-17
2. God's will for us - 1 Thess. 5:16-18
3. God's grace evident in us - Hebs.12:28 (NIV cf NKJ)
4. God's Spirit active through us - Eph.5:18-20
5. God's antidote for worries in us - Phil.4:6-7, John 10:10

**Being Thankful provides:**

- an atmosphere of blessing – Acts 20:35
- access to God – Psalm 100, especially v4
- activation of God's power – John 6:23 - 5,000 fed after the Lord gave thanks. Jonah 2:9&10
- acceptable worship

**Application** (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

How many times did you receive thanks today? Do you think we live in a generally thankful society – give examples for your conclusion?

Read 2 Tim 3:1-5. How does this description of people relate to a lack of thankfulness?

Compare to Col 3:15-17 – why would these people be more naturally thankful? (*Help if needed* - the key difference is what is going on inside leading to their actions).

Phil 4:6-7 is a very well known scripture. Go through the scripture and mark yourself out of 10 for the following:

- I'm not anxious in anything
- I pray about all things that cause me to worry
- I am both thankful generally and in specific difficulties, giving thanks in advance
- I know God's peace in all circumstances.

Where do you need to grow?

**Witness** (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

We will be looking to grow the two evening cells into three by Easter, this will be open to all in NCC to get involved. The three cells will have the following focus: Studlands Park, Newmarket and Villages. Where do you feel you belong or most called to witness?