



Lesson Eight **Seeing God Through the Lens of Gratitude and Grace**

Day 1

1. Read Chapter 8 in *A Sudden Glory*.
2. What did I call the infection of Eden? Why do you think I used the word “infection?” Share your answer.
3. One of my favorite thoughts from the chapter is this: “Gratitude changes the lens through which we see the circumstances in our little slice of time. Thanksgiving changes our perspective despite broken dreams, broken relationships, tumultuous circumstances, and unfulfilled longings. As you praise God for who He is and thank Him for what He’s done, your perspective of Him grows larger and your problems grow smaller. As a result, you will experience a deeper sense of intimacy with God as the emotional gap between what you know to be true and how you feel at the moment closes.” Page 158

I encourage you to give that a try this week. When you get in a tough spot, start praising God and see what happens to your thoughts, emotions, and responses. I’d love for you to leave a comment and tell us what happened in your heart.

Day 2

1. Answer questions 1-5 in Lesson 8 of the Study Guide.
2. So many times people think they would spend more times praising God if life were easier. What did you learn about the Israelites? Did the buckets full (or rather baskets full) of blessings cause them to love God more or praise God more?

3. It would be easy to say, “If God blessed me like that, I certainly wouldn’t grumble!” But He has blessed us ever more than the Israelites! Click on the comment box and tell me 5 of your greatest blessings and reasons to praise God with a grateful heart.

Day 3

1. Answer questions 6-13 in Lesson 8 of the Study Guide.
2. I just love thinking about question 12. Would you say you act more like a captive set free or a prisoner on parole? Leave your answer in the comment box.
3. What has God taught you through Chapter 8 and Lesson 8 about the importance of an attitude of gratitude as a pathway to experiencing moments of sudden glory?

Day 4

Day four of each week has extra Bible study questions that are not in the Bible Study Guide. These are for on-line Bible study participants who want to dig a little deeper.

1. How does ingratitude show a lack of trust?

What did Habakkuk say he was going to do, even though he didn’t see the answers to all his prayers?
Habakkuk 3:17-19

Can you praise God with a grateful heart even if you do not see the answers to your prayers?

Do you trust that He has everything under His control and has your best interest at heart?

2. Read and record Psalm 34:1. How would practicing this verse as you live and move and have your being in Christ affect your attitude throughout the day? Want to give it a try?
3. How does Psalm 67 show that gratitude precedes God’s blessings? Pay special attention to that one little word as the beginning of verse 7, “then” in the NIV.
4. In the last twelve hours of Jesus’ life before the cross, He gathered his twelve friends in the upper room, broke the bread, served the wine and gave thanks. Unlike you and me who don’t know what is around the bend in our journey on this earth, Jesus knew what was coming. And yet, he still gave thanks. What can we learn from that? Share your answer in the comment box.

Day 5

It’s time for a video chat. Click on the video link for some face-to-face time. After viewing the video, come back and share what impacted your life the most in Lesson Seven. Ask a question. Give an insight. This is your space.

