

2025 Thanksgiving Service

November 23rd, 2025

Study Notes

<https://www.youtube.com/live/YtC4u4uIWkA>

<https://www.livinghopebranch.org/sermons/2025-11-23-thanksgiving-worship-service-think-on-these-things/>

Clickable Time Stamps

00:00 Praise Reports

06:51 Welcome and Opening Comments - Elder

Larry Cain

18:00 Congregational Singing

"How Great Is Our God"

"10,000 Reasons"

"Come Ye Thankful People Come"

"We Praise Him for and we are thankful for..."

29:14 God and His Blessings

Scripture Reading - Deacon Cullen Maday

Music Ministry - "I'm Counting Every Blessing"

Prayer - Elder Pete Peterson

38:49 Country

Scripture Reading - Elder Scott Eastin

Testimony - Elder Paul Cornish

Congregational Singing - "America The Beautiful"

Prayer - Rhonda Schmidt

46:55 Relationships

(Family/Friends/Church Family)

Scripture Reading - Christina Neill

Testimony - Aubree Wilson

Congregational Singing - "They'll know we are Christians by our Love"

Prayer - Robin Neill

(continued in next column)

Clickable Time Stamps (continued)

"We Praise Him for and we are thankful for..."

59:44 The Gospel

Scripture Reading - Katie Campbell

Testimony - Elder Chip Gowan

Congregational Singing - "I Have Found the Glorious Gospel"

Prayer - Elder Jack Hagensen

01:15:19 Hope

Scripture Reading and Comments - Joy Cain

Testimony - Tiffani Brennan

Congregational Singing - "Living Hope"

Prayer - Muriel Luedeman

01:38:10 Jesus / Salvation

Scripture Reading - Elder Andrew Dunning

Testimony - Connie Smith

Music Ministry - "There is a Redeemer" – Luke and Emily Jehle

Prayer - Elzy Lazley

02:02:35 Closing Comments - Elder Vaughn Cornish

02:06:05 Congregational Singing - "To God Be The Glory"

02:08:54 Closing Prayer - Elder Ed Mason

02:10:41 Congregational Response - "Give Thanks"

Summary

This Thanksgiving Worship Service at Living Hope Church centered on themes of gratitude, faith, and spiritual renewal grounded in scripture and personal testimonies. Elder Larry Cain opened the service emphasizing Philippians 4:8, encouraging the congregation to focus their minds on virtues such as truth, nobility, purity, and praise. He described praise and prayer as powerful spiritual practices that elevate faith, combat anxiety, and foster a deep connection with God, calling praise a “spiritual weapon” in difficult times.

The service included scripture readings and heartfelt testimonies reflecting on God’s blessings, the gospel, hope, relationships, salvation, and obedience.

Elder Paul Cornish testified about the sacrifices made for country and freedom, tying it to Christ’s ultimate sacrifice for all humanity.

Aubree Wilson shared the profound impact of familial and church relationships on her spiritual journey, highlighting the power of prayer and community support.

Elder Chip Gowan recounted his conversion story, the importance of the Book of Mormon, and the unchanging, merciful nature of God, emphasizing the gospel’s message of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Joy Cain and Tiffani Brennan spoke earnestly about hope in trials, with Tiffani sharing a deeply personal experience of postpartum struggles and the peace found through faith, prayer, and community.

Connie Smith delivered a moving testimony on the joy of salvation, sharing her journey from spiritual emptiness to transformation through scripture study, repentance, and a powerful spiritual experience that reassured her of God’s cleansing power. She also shared a poignant poem, “The Touch of the Master’s Hand,” illustrating how Christ’s influence redeems and restores broken lives.

The service concluded with Elder Vaughn Cornish emphasizing obedience as a vital yet sometimes overlooked aspect of faith, using the biblical story of Hannah and Samuel to inspire believers to surrender their wills to God’s plan and live in faithful service.

Overall, the Thanksgiving Service uplifted the congregation with inspiring reflections on God’s mercy, the power of prayer and praise, the significance of relationships, and the hope and joy found in the gospel and obedience to God’s will.

Highlights

1. **The service's central theme** was drawn from Philippians 4:8, urging believers to focus on virtues and praise as a spiritual practice.
2. **Praise and prayer were described** as complementary spiritual weapons that combat anxiety and reinforce faith.
3. **Personal testimonies** powerfully illustrated God's blessings in family, nation, and individual salvation journeys.
4. **The gospel message** was reinforced through Elder Chip Gowan's testimony on the Book of Mormon and God's eternal, unchanging nature.
5. **Hope was emphasized** as essential in life's storms, supported by testimonies of perseverance, especially in postpartum challenges.
6. **Salvation and repentance** were deeply explored through Connie Smith's transformative spiritual experience and scripture study.
7. **Obedience to God's will** was highlighted as a key ingredient in living a faithful Christian life, illustrated by the story of Hannah and Samuel.

Key Insights

1. **The Power of Praise and Prayer as Spiritual Weapons:** Elder Larry Cain's message reveals that praise is not just worship but a proactive spiritual strategy that shifts focus from problems to God's power, fortifying believers against fear and anxiety. This dynamic interaction between praise and prayer fosters resilience and deepens intimacy with God.
2. **Sacrifice and Freedom Linked to Christ's Ultimate Sacrifice:** Elder Paul Cornish's testimony draws a profound connection between national sacrifice for freedom and Jesus Christ's sacrifice for mankind. This insight elevates patriotic gratitude into a spiritual reflection on divine love and selflessness, inspiring believers to endure with faith.
3. **Relationships as Foundations of Faith:** Aubree Wilson's testimony highlights how early family prayers and church community relationships shape spiritual resilience and growth. This underscores that faith is nurtured in relational contexts, where intergenerational prayers and gospel bonds provide strength and hope.
4. **The Unchanging Nature of God and the Expansive Gospel:** Elder Chip Gowan's reflections on the Book of Mormon and the Lectures on Faith deepen understanding of God's eternal, merciful character. His testimony shows how gospel teachings unify scripture and provide assurance of salvation for all who follow Christ, reinforcing the universality of God's love.
5. **Hope as a Sustaining Force in Trials:** Joy Cain and Tiffani Brennan illustrate how hope in Jesus brings peace amid life's storms, including postpartum struggles. Their stories demonstrate that spiritual peace is often accompanied by community support, prayer, and God's mysterious timing in answering prayers, offering an inspiring model of perseverance.
6. **Repentance and Joy Through Personal Transformation:** Connie Smith's testimony reveals the transformative power of scripture study leading to repentance and spiritual cleansing. Her vivid spiritual experience with the "burning in the bosom" symbolizes God's intimate work in souls, inspiring believers that sincere seeking leads to joy and renewal.
7. **Obedience as a Vital Expression of Faith:** Elder Vaughn Cornish's closing comments remind the congregation that obedience complements forgiveness and redemption. Using Hannah's story, he inspires believers to submit fully to God's will, emphasizing that true faith requires action and dedication beyond belief alone.