

*Pastor Mrs Faith Oyedepo*



**SHILOH 2023: HOUR OF VISITATION | DAY 3**

**REDEEMED TO FLOURISH IN HARD TIMES**

**Faith Tabernacle, Ota**

Speaker's Topic:

**ENGAGING THE MYSTERY OF THANKSGIVING TO  
FLOURISH IN HARD TIMES**

*Transcribed and Published by [Livingsermons.com](http://Livingsermons.com)*

## ***SHILOH 2023: HOUR OF VISITATION | DAY 3***

***Speaker's Topic:*** *Engaging the Mystery of Thanksgiving to Flourish in Hard Times*

***Speaker:*** *Pastor Mrs Faith Oyedepo*

***Publisher:*** [Livingsermons.com](http://Livingsermons.com)

Watch the live sermon [here](#)



**Title: Engaging the Mystery of Thanksgiving to Flourish in Hard Times**

**Author:** Pastor Mrs Faith Oyedepo

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All inquiries and permissions:

[info.livingsermons@gmail.com](mailto:info.livingsermons@gmail.com)

[www.livingsermons.com](http://www.livingsermons.com)

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# Foreword

*In this powerful Shiloh 2023 message, Faith Oyedepo unveils the mystery of thanksgiving as a divine key for supernatural flourishing in seasons of hardship. With simplicity, conviction, and deep spiritual insight, she reminds believers that thanksgiving is not merely a reaction to favourable circumstances, but a covenant lifestyle that provokes divine intervention, preserves blessings, multiplies testimonies, and sustains supernatural joy.*

*This book arrives at a critical time in history when many hearts are weighed down by economic pressure, uncertainty, fear, and discouragement. Yet, through the timeless truth of God's Word, the reader is reminded that Kingdom people are not permitted to live under the oppression of hard times. Redemption has ordained us for flourishing.*

*One of the striking strengths of this message is its practical depth. Through relatable illustrations, scriptural teaching, and heartfelt exhortation, the author reveals how gratitude shifts the believer's focus from problems to God's faithfulness. Every chapter echoes a resounding truth: when thanksgiving becomes a lifestyle, divine supply, strength, favour, and restoration become inevitable realities.*

*As you journey through these pages, expect your heart to be stirred towards deeper gratitude. Expect your faith to rise again. Expect the spirit of murmuring and complaint to lose its hold over your life. Most importantly, expect the prophetic word over your destiny to find speedy fulfilment.*

**— Wisdom Epsi**  
**Chief Editor, LivingSermons.com**

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## **Publisher's Note**

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The message you are about to read was originally ministered in a live congregational setting. As such, it carries the weight, urgency, and atmosphere of that sacred gathering. Minor grammatical and structural adjustments have been made solely to enhance readability, without altering the substance, intent, or power of the original delivery.

The live sermon from which this message was transcribed can be accessed here: [Shiloh 2023 Live](#)

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*A Spirit-led Publishing Stewardship*

**Main Message**

***Begins Here***



## **Engaging the Mystery of Thanksgiving to Flourish in Hard Times**

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“Can you give that hand to Jesus Christ? Make it bigger, louder for Jesus! Let somebody shout the loudest Hallelujah!”

“Please bow your heads, everybody. Can you please lift up your right hand to God and say after me:

‘Heavenly Father, I thank You. My heart is open. Send me Your Word again.’”

Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, our hearts are open and receptive. Send us Your Word again. Illuminate our spirit man. Grant us grace to be hearers and doers, and we give You back all the glory.

In Jesus’ mighty name we have prayed. Amen.

Please, you may be comfortably seated. Put your hands together for the Lord. If you can, make it bigger and louder for Jesus.

Praise God.

This morning, it is a great privilege to be able to stand here to share the Word of God briefly with us, and I believe that what God has in store for each one of us shall be delivered in Jesus' name.

For the first and second words this morning, I know you have been blessed. Give the Lord a big clap offering for that.

Since Shiloh began on Tuesday night, it has been from one level of glory to another, and I know that God has not finished with us yet. What God has intended for each and every one of us this Shiloh shall find complete fulfilment in Jesus' name.

In this segment, we are looking at this subject captioned:

## **Engaging the Mystery of Thanksgiving to Flourish in Hard Times**

By way of introduction, it is very important for us to understand that the Scripture makes it very clear that thanksgiving—or lack of thanksgiving—is one of the end-time plagues.

Thanklessness is one of the end-time plagues.

Second Timothy 3:1–2 says:

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy.” — 2 Timothy 3:1–2 (KJV)

So, thanklessness is one of the plagues of the end time, and that plague will not succeed in catching you.

God's servant, Bishop David Oyedepo, has said that thanklessness is a risk—a terrible risk—and it is catching the world like wildfire.

As the times begin to get harder, men shall complain the more, grumble the more, and become unthankful the more because of the hardness of the season.

But I have good news for somebody here today: no matter how unthankful men in this world may become, that plague will not catch you.

It is a plague.

You find many complaining on our streets today about many things that do not even concern them. They complain about the weather. If it is hot, they complain it is hot. If it rains, they complain it is cold. They complain about traffic, complain about the high prices of things, complain even about husband, wife, children, and jobs.

Many are looking for jobs, yet many who have jobs are still complaining about them.

Complaints on the streets are increasing—it is one of the plagues.

But the mystery of thanksgiving is one of the easiest ways of overcoming it.

You and I will overcome.

Thanksgiving, we must understand, is one of the mysteries of the Kingdom ordained for our mastery. Whatever may be pulling others down, with thanksgiving, you and I will rise up.

Thanksgiving is ordained for our flourishing, especially in hard times.

And the good news is this: thanksgiving is a choice. It is not a gift. No one has the gift of thanksgiving. To be thankful is a choice, and you and I have the power to make that choice.

Would you lift your right hand to God and say loud and clear:

“I choose to be thankful!”

If you make that choice, then God will empower your choice, and today I see God empowering our choice to be thankful.

We have been told over and over again: when things get tough and you do not know what else to do, thanksgiving is what to do.

I do not know who you are this morning. I do not know the challenge of life that you may be confronted with—maybe your career, family, finances, or your health.

Whatever it may be, I have good news for you today: if you choose to be thankful, God will ensure your “thank” is full.

## **Fearfully and Wonderfully Made**

Psalm 139:14 says:

“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” — Psalm 139:14  
(KJV)

Say it with me:

“I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”

Please turn to your neighbour and convince him or her: “You are fearfully and wonderfully made.”

Therefore, as individuals, we must learn to be thankful. We must make it a lifestyle.

We are told that the human body is made up of 78 major organs. Some are external organs that we can see physically, while others are internal organs we may not be able to see.

Think about it.

You have your head, your eyes, your ears, your nose, your mouth, your tongue, your neck, your shoulders, your hands, your fingers, your waist, your knees, your legs, your toes—and the list goes on and on.

Then there are the internal organs: the heart, the brain, the lungs, the liver, the intestines, the blood, the muscles.

Minimum—78 major organs.

How many of your organs are working?

Why should you and I not be thankful?

Even if only one seems not to be functioning well, take one out of seventy-eight—what percentage is that?

Lift your right hand again and say:

“Father, I am thankful.”

Do you know that your heart beats about 115,000 times every day?

Has your heart ever stopped beating for one day?

Definitely not.

If it stops beating for one minute, that will be the end—but that is not your portion.

God has kept your heart and my heart beating since the day we were born.

The challenge is that most times we only appreciate these organs when they are not functioning well.

Sometime this year, I had a challenge with some of my teeth, and for that period I could not eat with one side of my mouth. Then I realised how important my teeth actually were.

May you not lose any of your organs.

At that period, I had to eat slowly because just one organ was challenged.

But no matter where you may be right now, and no matter any organ of your body that may be challenged, with the mystery of thanksgiving, you are coming out.

## **The Power of Gratitude in Difficult Times**

We have heard it said over and again:

“To be ungrateful is to be a great fool.”

Those who are grateful always end up great.

You shall be great.

Psalm 34:1 says:

“I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.” — Psalm 34:1 (KJV)

At all times.

Somebody may say, “You do not know my condition. You do not know what I have been through.”

Yes, you may have gone through the waters and the fire, but you are going through—you are not staying there. God is not through with you yet, and He is bringing you out.

God’s servant has said over and again:

“If you have lost anything, know that God is the reason why you have not lost everything.”

No matter what the enemy may have stolen from you before now, as you put the mystery of thanksgiving to work, it shall be restored to you sevenfold.

Thanksgiving is the glue that helps to firmly attach your blessings to you.

God’s blessings in your life shall never be lost.

# Why Must We Be Thankful?

## 1. God Deserves and Demands It

In Luke 17, we read about the ten lepers that were cleansed, yet only one returned to give thanks.

Jesus said:

“Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?” — Luke 17:17 (KJV)

God is waiting for our thanksgiving.

He deserves it, and He demands it.

Isaiah 51:11 says:

“Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return...” — Isaiah 51:11 (KJV)

They shall return with thanksgiving.

May God find us thankful.

## 2. Life Is a Gift

Life—both physical and spiritual—is a gift.

How many of us contributed anything to our being born into this world?

Did you decide which country you wanted to be born into?

Did you decide who your biological parents would be?

No.

Life is a gift.

Salvation is also a gift. Eternal life is a gift.

We did not pay for it.

Therefore, we must learn to focus on the Giver if we must continue enjoying the gift.

Thanksgiving helps us to focus on God, who is the Giver.

You may not yet be where you want to be, but if you look back at where you were, you will discover that you are not where you used to be.

Whatever your present situation may be is somebody else's prayer point.

"Oh, I need a wife or husband."

Thank God you are even qualified to believe God for one.

"Oh, I need children."

Thank God you are even married.

"Oh, I need a job."

Thank God you are even a candidate.

"Oh, I need a breakthrough."

Thank God your mind is still functioning to think about it.

Wherever you may be right now is somebody else's prayer point.

Therefore, give thanks unto God.

I can never forget the season when the enemy radically attacked my health and physical body. I realised then much more than ever before that to sleep and wake up is the gift of God.

You may set your alarm clock, but it is not your clock that woke you up.

Who woke you up this morning?

God did.

From that season in my life, once my eyes open in the morning, the first thing I say is:

“Thank You, Jesus.”

Every blessed day is a gift.

To lie on the bed by yourself is a gift.

At that season, I needed assistance to turn on the bed, assistance to get out of bed, assistance to eat, to drink, and even to use the toilet.

Some of you went to the toilet easily today and came back without any problem. That is the gift of God.

Let us begin to focus on the Giver.

And so, when challenging times come upon the world and various sicknesses and diseases begin to surface, with the mystery of thanksgiving, you and I shall be exempted.

We have heard testimonies of miracles, healings, and even the raising of the dead through the weapon of thanksgiving.

It has happened before, and it will happen again.

I remember a lady who stood here after service one day and testified. She gave thanks to God 7,000 times because she was believing God for marital breakthrough—and the husband showed up.

There are some of you under the sound of my voice today, no matter where you may be across the globe, believing God for marital breakthroughs: if you will begin to put this mystery of thanksgiving to work, your marital settlement is settled.

Shiloh next year, by the grace of God, you will testify.



## The Power of Thanksgiving

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When you are thankful, God's blessings upon your life are:

1. Preserved
2. Multiplied
3. Perfected

Malachi 2:1–3 shows us that if we do not want God's blessings upon our lives to be corrupted, then we must be thankful.

That is one of the secrets of this Commission.

From the early days, when the church had only a handful of people gathered together on benches, thanksgiving remained the lifestyle. Today, see what the Lord has done.

One thing you cannot succeed in doing around the life of God's servant, Bishop David Oyedepo, is complaining, murmuring, or grumbling. He lives a life of thanksgiving. Again and again, you hear him say:

“Thank You, Jesus. Thank You, Jesus. Thank You, Jesus.”

We all picked it up.

At home, you are not allowed to complain. You cannot even say something has finished.

If anything is almost finished in the house, we do not say, "It has finished."

We say:

"It is plenty."

And when you declare it, God will make it so.

Because we have consistently made that declaration, it has never finished. We have never lacked. We have never borrowed.

Why?

Because the law and mystery of thanksgiving is at work. From today, nothing good will finish in your life. Thanksgiving preserves.

Thanksgiving multiplies.

Jesus gave thanks, and the bread multiplied. I can never forget a family that had nothing to eat for dinner. They gathered around the table, gave thanks to God, served water at dinner, and went to bed.

The next morning, food physically arrived for them.

Why?

Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving.

Nothing good will finish in your life.

# How Thanksgiving Enhances Flourishing in Hard Times

As we begin to round up, it is important for us to take a look at how thanksgiving enhances our flourishing in hard times.

How does thanksgiving enhance our flourishing in hard times?

## 1. Thanksgiving Provokes Continuous Flow of Fresh Oil

Psalm 92:10 says:

“But my horn shalt thou exalt like the horn of an unicorn: I shall be anointed with fresh oil.” — Psalm 92:10 (KJV)

Then verses 12 and 13 tell us:

“The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.” — Psalm 92:12–13 (KJV)

Say with me:

“I will flourish!”

Tell your neighbour:

“You will flourish!”

Thanksgiving provokes the continuous flow of fresh oil, which in turn causes us to flourish in and out of season.

From this mountain of Shiloh 2023, the fresh oil of God will be going home with us, and with that, you and I will continue to flourish no matter how hard things become.

Therefore, when the world says there is a casting down, you will be saying there is a lifting up.

When they are selling off their businesses, you will be expanding.

When they are going around borrowing, you will have enough to give.

When they are losing jobs, you will be having multiple jobs.

Certain people under the sound of my voice today, with the mystery of thanksgiving, you have been believing God for miracle jobs. Some of you will receive telephone alerts before the end of today, and they shall be alerts of good news.

That business breakthrough you have been looking for shall be delivered into your hands.

That miracle husband or wife you have been believing God for shall be delivered unto you.

Miracle babies, through the mystery of thanksgiving, shall be delivered.

There are some persons under the sound of my voice today who have been believing God for the fruit of the womb. Shiloh next year, you are returning with your testimony.

You are returning either with your babies in your hands or in your womb.

## **2. Thanksgiving Provokes Divine Intervention**

When we are genuinely thankful, we keep provoking divine intervention. Thanksgiving provokes divine intervention.

The world may be going through seasons of depression because of the hardness of the times, but when you and I put the mystery of thanksgiving to work, we provoke divine intervention.

Beginning from this moment, make it a lifestyle:

“Father, I thank You. Father, I thank You. Father, I thank You.”

Somebody may say, “What if I do not feel like saying it?”

You do not have to feel like it. We do not walk by feelings; we walk by faith. Keep saying it, your feelings notwithstanding, and God will put a stamp of approval upon it. Before Lazarus came forth, what did Jesus say?

“Father, I thank thee...” — John 11:41 (KJV)

Somebody’s Lazarus is coming forth. That Lazarus may concern your job, your finances, your health, or any area of your life—but it will come forth. Divine intervention becomes our portion from today. As we begin to engage the mystery of thanksgiving, God will arise in somebody’s favour.

## **3. Thanksgiving Produces Joy and Supernatural Strength**

To live a thankful life is to live a life of joy and rejoicing, and that in turn supernaturally strengthens us.

Nehemiah 8:10 says:

“...for the joy of the Lord is your strength.” — Nehemiah 8:10 (KJV)

To be joyful is to be gainful. To be joyful is to enjoy supernatural breakthroughs. When we live a life of joy and rejoicing, it strengthens us supernaturally. In John 4:32–34, the disciples wondered whether someone had given Jesus food to eat, but He said:

“My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.” —  
John 4:34 (KJV)

Therefore, no matter your present situation, do not lose your joy.

Tell your neighbour:

“Do not lose your joy.”

Now tell yourself:

“I shall not lose my joy.”

No matter your present situation, do not lose your joy, because your miracle is right at the door and you shall not miss it.

The joy of the Lord will continue to be your strength.

Think of this: you are believing God for a miracle spouse, but you are always frowning, carrying a long face, and never smiling.

When someone greets you:

“Hello.”

And your face is so long that the brother or sister quickly turns away in the opposite direction.

Why?

No one wants to get married to someone who is never joyful.

Smile where you are right now.

You look different when you smile. You become more attractive when you smile. You become more handsome and more beautiful when you smile. Have you noticed that before taking a picture, they tell you:

“Smile!”

Tap your neighbour and tell him or her:

“Smile. God is on your side.”

You will flourish.

From today, no more long faces.

## **Thanksgiving Provokes the Fulfilment of Prophetic Words**

Finally, to be thankful is to see the prophetic word come to pass. When you are thankful, the prophetic word is provoked to be fulfilled without stress in your life.

First Thessalonians 5:18 says:

“In every thing give thanks...” — 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (KJV)

Hebrews 10:36 says:

“For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.” — Hebrews 10:36 (KJV)

What is the prophetic word for us at Shiloh 2023?

“I am redeemed to flourish in hard times.”

Personalise it now:

“I am redeemed to flourish in hard times.”

That prophetic word will come to pass in your life. No matter how hard the times may be out there in the world, as for you and I, we shall flourish.

Tell your neighbour:

“You will flourish.”

Now say to yourself:

“I will flourish.”

As long as we keep appreciating the Source, who is God, we will always connect with His resources. God’s resources are more than enough to fulfil all your needs and my needs.

But to connect with those abundant resources, we must put the mystery of thanksgiving to work. Therefore, upon this mountain of Shiloh 2023, I curse the spirit of murmuring.

Everything that grumbles and complains is hereby cursed. Murmuring comes to an end in our lives. In the place of murmuring, there shall be thanksgiving.

Therefore, in the name of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, I decree the supernatural and speedy fulfilment of the prophetic word for Shiloh this year in everybody’s life.

If you receive it, say:

“I receive it!”

Rise up on your feet right now wherever you may be. Raise your right hand to God and shout aloud: “Father, I thank You! Father, I thank You! Father, I thank You!”

Wave your hands to the Lord and say: “My Father, I thank You.”

The grace to live a lifestyle of thanksgiving becomes everyone’s portion.

In Jesus’ mighty name, amen.



## About the Speaker

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Pastor Mrs Faith Oyedepo is a renowned Christian teacher, author, mentor, and co-founder of the Living Faith Church Worldwide, also known as Winners' Chapel International. She serves alongside her husband, Bishop David Oyedepo, in advancing the global mandate of preaching the Word of Faith and raising believers who walk in dominion through the power of God's Word.

Widely respected for her depth of wisdom, humility, and motherly grace, Pastor Faith Oyedepo has impacted millions of lives across the world through her teachings on faith, family, marriage, prayer, thanksgiving, and victorious Christian living. Her ministry carries a unique balance of spiritual authority and practical insight, making her messages both deeply transformative and relatable to everyday life.

Over the years, she has played a vital role in nurturing families and strengthening homes through conferences, seminars, counselling ministries, and publications. Her teachings consistently emphasise total dependence on God, joyful Christian living, covenant practice, and unwavering trust in the integrity of Scripture.

As a prolific author, Pastor Faith Oyedepo has written numerous life-transforming books and devotionals that continue to bless believers globally. Through her ministry, countless testimonies of healing, restoration, marital breakthroughs, supernatural provision, and spiritual renewal have emerged.



## About Living Sermons

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**Living Sermons** is a Spirit-led publishing platform dedicated to transforming timeless messages of God’s servants into books that can reach and impact lives across the world.

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**Living Sermons—*the preached Word in lasting form.***



Living Sermons

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