

It's important that we have thanksgiving in our heart as we talk to God



*Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all He has done. Philippians 4:6*

## **Pray with Thanksgiving**

Just a little over a week ago I wrote a letter to the pastor at Mayflower, the congregation we have been leasing from for over 15 years now. In it I thanked him for the positive time we have experienced at Mayflower, but told him that we felt our time here had come to an end. There were a number of reasons why our leadership felt such strong unanimity in this decision. Regardless of the peace and clarity with this decision, this last week as I started the initial process of culling through things accumulated over 15 years, I felt a flurry of emotions.

The emotions had kicked off for me last Saturday evening as we as a small group of intercessors met together to worship and talk to God together. My initial thought was to quickly shift our time to praying about where we should next gather together as a community. But, I felt that this wasn't the right thing to lead off with. I was reminded of the above verses in Philippians where God instructs us to present our petitions with thanksgiving. So many times I move quickly to asking God for help and telling Him what I need that I forget to thank Him for what He has done. I felt that it was important to offer up to Him an expression of thankfulness for how He has blessed us while meeting at Mayflower.

So for the following hour we did just that. We started by thanking YHWH for the many dozens of people who we had loved who had come down the stairs from Cornell and into our lives for a season. We wrote their names on a whiteboard and recalled a flood of memories that came to us. We then shared stories of baptisms, funerals, weddings, kid's programs, outreaches, prayer initiatives, and blessing and releasing people who were moving on. We then thanked our Abba for the kindness and blessings that He had given us there at the Mayflower building. The funny thing is that we never got around to the part where we asked for YHWH's direction as to where we are to go next. Though we will certainly be asking Him for clarity on this question in the days ahead, it just didn't seem appropriate for this particular prayer time.

As I drove home alone in the dark after our prayer time, I had a heart brimming with thankfulness to the One who has been so good and kind to us in the Lighthouse. I am confident that He who has been so faithful will continue to be

faithful in leading us in the days ahead. We'll definitely be bringing a number of requests to Him...but I believe we will be doing this with great thankfulness in our hearts.