

baked unleavened bread because they did not have the time to wait for the yeast to rise.

So, during the annual Passover celebration, they continued to eat unleavened bread to remember what the Lord did for them by rescuing them out of Egypt. Their years in slavery was a very painful time in the lives of the Israelites, but God instructed them not to forget about this hard time in their lives, but to be thankful and remember it. It like he was saying...

## **WE MUST BE THANKFUL FOR ALL THINGS**

The Israelites were thankful for the Lord getting them out of Egypt.

We will always be thankful for the great things God has provided for us. It is actually really easy to be thankful for all the good things God has done for us, right? And we should be thankful.

### **Ephesians 5:20**

20 And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Isn't that so easy? Giving thanks for the great things in your life that God has provided?

### **BUT WHAT ABOUT THE DIFFICULT THINGS IN OUR LIFE?**

Are we thankful for those? Should we be? Why would we be?

### **Leviticus 7:13**

13 This peace offering of thanksgiving must also be accompanied by loaves of bread made with yeast.

We just said that the Israelites only ate unleavened bread...why would God require them to offer up something that is viewed as negative?

Leaven (yeast) is used in the Bible for negative things like sin, false doctrine, and evil events. To include leavened bread in the thanksgiving offering means we are to be thankful for even the difficult things in our life.

## **SAME QUESTION: WHY ON EARTH WOULD WE BE THANKFUL FOR THE DIFFICULT THINGS IN OUR LIFE?**

**The answer: who we are in the difficult times is where the true self will really come out and when our true faith to God is exposed.**

We are supposed to be thankful for the crap in our lives? Really? If I were only reading one reading Scripture, it would appear so.

### **James 1:2-4**

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

If who we really are comes out in the troubled times, it shows us areas in which we know we need to work on regarding our character. It's the testing of our faith that produces perseverance, meaning you can learn from it, be stronger and you can keep walking through the fire even it heats up more and more. Perseverance will help you become a stronger believer so you can be "mature and complete" as James says.

When we look at Paul in the New Testament, we find that he was imprisoned, beaten, and spit on by the Romans, and yet this is what he said about his circumstances:

### **2 Corinthians 12:10**

10 That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Remember that we are to give thanks for all things? Evidently that includes the bad as well as the good.

I don't know if you are like me, but there are somethings in my life in which I think I am strong enough to get through on my own. There have either been people in my life that let me down, they forgot about