

# Give Thanks

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*1 Thessalonians 5:18 KJV* In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

*Ephesians 5:20 KJV* Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

In everything give thanks. Give thanks always for all things. There is no exception. There is no excuse. No matter what happens in life. No matter the circumstance. No matter the struggle. No matter the trial. No matter the test. Whatever happens, give thanks, because it is God's will for those in Christ Jesus. Being unthankful is the essence of an unreformed, non-repentant mind and heart. It is the mind/heart of a person who is not grounded in Jesus Christ.

*Romans 1:20-21a TLV ~ <sup>20</sup>His invisible attributes—His eternal power and His divine nature—have been clearly seen ever since the creation of the world, being understood through the things that have been made. So people are without excuse— <sup>21</sup>for even though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God or give Him thanks. Instead, their thinking became futile, and their senseless hearts were made dark.*

*Romans 1:21 MKJV* Because, knowing God, they did not glorify Him as God, neither were thankful. But they became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish

*heart was darkened.*

Romans Chapter One teaches about the unreformed mind and heart. It is the character of the unreformed and non-repentant that they will not give God thanks. Unreformed, non-repentant people are bitter and complaining and angry and hostile. God gets no credit in their life. He gets no thanks from the soul of their heart.

The essence of being a Christian is living in gratitude and thanksgiving. Thanking God for everything. Thanking God who created everything. Thanking God who gives us life and breath. Thanking God in whom we live and move and have our being. Thanking God no matter what happens, for this is the way God wants those who belong to Christ Jesus to live.

When a person becomes a professing, true believing Christian, giving thanks to God becomes natural. A true believing Christian has a new heart, a new soul, a new inner life... There's something different about the inner self; and built into that newness is a heart of thanksgiving that cries out in gratitude to God.

Thanksgiving becomes a part of the fabric of having a new life. It's the fruit of the grace of the work of the Spirit within us. But isn't it interesting how even Christians can become unthankful? It's possible because as humans, we can easily fall into the sin of ingratitude. That is why the New Testament repeatedly calls us to thankfulness.

The principle that sets it all in place is Romans 8:28.

*(MKJV) And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

*(MSG) That's why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good.*

No matter what happens, it all falls under the umbrella of Romans 8:28. God will take a bad thing and turn it to a good purpose for our good and our eternal glory. If you live believing that God is at work, sovereignly controlling the contingencies of life, blending it all together, then you can handle anything in life and be thankful because you know it fits in to His ultimate plan.

*Ephesians 5:20 KJV ~ Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;*

*Philippians 4:4 KJV ~ Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:17 KJV ~ Pray without ceasing.*

Even in times of trouble...

*Philippians 4:6 KJV ~ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

Even in the times of great anxiety, fear, worry and stress, we are to be thankful. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in

everything give thanks... It's the best gauge of a Christian's spiritual condition.

It should be the pattern of every Christian's life that we are endlessly giving God thanks, as a thankful believer, a joyful believer, a praying believer. If we're filled with the Holy Spirit, we're going to be giving thanks for everything. It's just going to gush out of you.

So why does a Christians become unthankful? Why? Because, sin hinders us. What Sins?

- Doubt.
- Selfishness.
- Worldliness.
- A Critical Spirit.
- Impatience.
- Spiritual Coldness (Lukewarm).
- Rebellion.

This age appears to have become one of the most thankless ages that has ever existed. People have more than they've ever had, and people know that there's more that they could have. So, no matter what they have they don't have everything they could have. They don't have everything they want, and it breeds a terrible kind of thanklessness...

The New Testament reminds the people of God over and over again to be thankful... so that we don't fall into the patterns of

those around us. If we're not joyful, prayerful, thankful people, then we're struggling with the flesh.

The hindrance to an unthankful heart is...

**Doubt:** If a person doubts God's truthfulness, then they are going to have trouble being thankful because they're not sure that He's really going to keep His promise to make it work for good.

**Selfishness:** Selfishness says "Look, I don't want it the way it is. I want it the way I want it. I am not content with the way God is doing this. I do not want it this way. I want my life this way. I want my job this way. I want my church this way. I want my spouse this way. I want my kids this way. I want my career this way. I want, I want, I want, I want.

**Worldliness:** Is all about the love of the world having first place in our heart. It's about pleasure, prominence, popularity, prestige, people, places, possessions, pursuits, and being mentally consumed with all that stuff. If it doesn't work out the way it is wanted, then there is no thankfulness...

**A Critical Spirit:** When a person is bitter, negative, or has a sour life attitude... When a person becomes a pain in the neck to everybody around them... When a person over-analyzes everything... When a person needs to criticize

everything that isn't exactly the way it ought to be... This is the character of a critical spirit. It makes a bitter negative thankless person.

**Pride:** Pride is an arrogant enlarged ego that says, "I deserve better than this. I'm worthy of better than this.

**Impatience:** When a person feels that God's not operating according to their schedule. God isn't working by their clock. They just can't take process. They want instant gratification. It's like the child with a tantrum, "I want it. I want it now.

**Spiritual coldness:** Some call it Apathy... the Bible calls it Lukewarm. It's being spiritually indifferent. It is the kind of coldness that steals thanksgiving, and consequently the mind and heart has no gratitude.

**Rebellion:** "I'm not thankful because I'm angry with God. I'm not thankful because I don't like what He's doing in my life. I'm, just mad." Everything good that happens, they've done it, they've arranged it, they've orchestrated it, they've made it happen, they dreamed it, schemed it, planned it, made it happen, pulled it off. And all the credit goes to them. None for God. After all, what did He have to do with that anyway? about anything?

**Doubt. Selfishness. Worldliness. A Critical Spirit.**

**Impatience. Spiritual Coldness (Lukewarm). Rebellion.** In any of these exist, then there is defiance against the command of

God to give thanks and be thankful. *In everything give thanks.* If there is no thankfulness, then the atmosphere for rebellion is present, because of coldness and indifference... because of impatience and criticism... because of worldliness and selfishness... because of doubt about God...

*(WEB) In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus toward you.*

Thankful for salvation... Thankful for victory over sin and death... Thankful for Divine Guidance... Thankful for complete provision for all our needs... Thankful for the hope of glory. Thankful for the power of the Word... Thankful for the power of prayer, and the goodness of God, and the mercy of God, and the holiness of God... Thankful for life and breath... Thankful for everything...

What happens when we're thankful? God is glorified, we're blessed, the church is built up, and the lost are reached. There is tremendous impact, when we are thankful.

What does God ask of His sheep? Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks... It's the best gauge of a Christian's spiritual condition.

*(WEB) We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose.*

*(TLV) in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Messiah Yeshua.*