**Thankful in All Circumstances**

***12****We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you,****13****and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.****14****And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle,[*[*c*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+thess+5&version=ESV#fen-ESV-29619c)*] encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.****15****See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.****16****Rejoice always,****17****pray without ceasing,****18****give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.****19****Do not quench the Spirit.****20****Do not despise prophecies,****21****but test everything; hold fast what is good.****22****Abstain from every form of evil.*

***23****Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.****24****He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. (1 Thessalonians 5:12-24)*

At all times and in all circumstances, our calling is to be thankful to God. May the Lord bless you dear brothers and sisters as today we remember the importance of thankfulness in our spiritual lives. God was encouraging the church through the Apostle Paul to be both joyful and thankful in all circumstances. After reading the letter itself, we come to know the Church in Thessalonica had had a number of issues, and the Apostle had already reminded them about how to have a holy life as their aim. God had called the believers to be children of light and not darkness. Thus, today, as we ready ourselves for this Thursday’s Thanksgiving Holiday, let us talk about being thankful, which forms an important part of our faith walk. Again, in everything, our calling is to be thankful to God. Let us see how that encouragement comes about…

As a believer, our spiritual life grows greatly when we show a thankful spirit, no matter what the circumstance may be. The Apostle Paul was finishing his letter when he gave the command to be thankful. In Greek, the term is “*eucharistia*,” which means gratefulness or to express thankful language to God as a form of worship.

It is interesting that the command to be thankful is not isolated from other commands but finds itself among many other important spiritual instructions. For example, we find the following helpful commands in the same passage: to recognize and honor the workers, the overseers, and admonishers in the Lord; to advise the idle, to encourage the fainthearted, to be patient toward everyone. He instructed that they should be careful to repay anyone evil for evil, to always pursue the good, to always be joyful, to pray ceaselessly and not to quench the Holy Spirit or any words of prophecy that He may inspire. Rather, the Apostle encouraged that the church members check every word according to the Scriptures, keep what is consistent and good, and stay away from evil deeds and temptations. However, in all these things, it is as if the Lord gives the summation of His will in the command to be thankful. Yes, the church had its mission to walk in holiness, but within that walk, God’s will was to give thanks always. The Apostle Paul was, in effect, saying, “Do everything (spiritual), but a thankful spirit completes God’s will.”

How important it is, for example, when our children and grandchildren are trained in civil behavior. We say to the little one, “Say please,” or “Say thank you,” or “Say you’re sorry,” or “Speak nicely,” “Tell the truth,” And other such things.

Today as we are mentally getting ready for the blessed Thanksgiving Holiday, which, even the government encourages, what place, if any, has a thankful attitude found in us, as we endeavor to live a God-pleasing life? Often, when we are under pressure because of life’s difficulties, being thankful for what we have raises our vision from our limited earthly vision to a Godly one. Often, we focus on our walk of holiness, but we forget the joy of the Lord and His salvation, which is our anchor and foundation. What our Lord has given us as the greatest gift (salvation) is a reason to constantly give thanks to God. Yes, we could experience a season of life where we enjoy God’s miracles, and we may enjoy a completely different atmosphere then, but it is our thankfulness that keeps us rightly focused on the Lord. It is thankfulness that will keep us humble and not allow us to think that we have accomplished something in our own strength.

In other words, if we can be thankful in all that we do, in all difficult circumstances, and in our general faith walk in life, we will be doing God’s will in the best way possible.

Remember the Apostle’s words on more time: “*give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*”

May God give us thankful hearts; let us remember all the good that He has given us and may the Lord Bless all of us to be a thankful people.

The Lord bless you all. Amen.