

A decorative illustration of a pumpkin and vine. The pumpkin is orange with green leaves and a stem, positioned in the upper right corner. A vine with green leaves and a small yellow flower extends from the top left towards the center.

In every thing
give thanks...

A Group Writing Project
Based on 1 Thes. 5:18

A decorative illustration of a pumpkin and vine. The pumpkin is orange with green leaves and a stem, positioned in the lower left corner. A vine with green leaves and a small yellow flower extends from the bottom right towards the center.

Featuring 13
Christian Bloggers

Hosted by:
FaithfulBloggers.com

Introduction

Faithful Bloggers is a community for Christian bloggers. Our purpose is to provide a common ground where we can encourage one another to use our blogs for the glory of God. While we want to mix and mingle and have fun, our purpose is to help you build a blog that will glorify the Lord while also strengthening your relationship with Him.

Why was Faithful Bloggers started?

As blogging continues to grow in popularity, a wonderful benefit to this “hobby” has arisen. The ability to meet new friends and form relationships is easier than ever. For those who are in rural areas or are housebound in some way, meeting someone is as easy as turning on your computer and relaying your thoughts. For Christians a challenge becomes apparent. Due to the rampant ungodliness that abounds on the Internet, the world of blogging is an overwhelming and often scary place to be. Where can a person who is striving to live the Christian life find an online area of common ground where she can build those godly relationships? Searching for Christian bloggers can be achieved through a simple search. It is overwhelming, however, to find that sense of community with a common purpose – becoming holy and serving our God – when we limit it to just searching through a search engine. Thus, Faithful Bloggers was born.

The Project

Faithful Bloggers issued a group writing challenge and 13 Christian bloggers stepped up and met the challenge.

The Challenge

The topic for the Faithful Blogger’s Group Writing Project was Thankfulness (giving thanks in everything) based on 1 Thessalonians 5:18. Each blogger wrote a post explaining what thankfulness means to them. It could be as long or as short as they wanted. It could be a personal testimony, a devotional, or Bible study in nature. The choice was theirs.

I hope you are blessed by the following devotions.

IN Everything Give Thanks

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

What a difference one word can make. When we read this verse many of us interpret it to say give thanks FOR everything. What if instead of reading what we think it says, we read what is really there: IN everything give thanks. In everything, not For everything. And not thanks for only the good things, but thanks for the bad, thanks in our times of trial, our times of pain. All are God's way of refining us in His fire, of bringing us closer to Him through His Son and the Holy Spirit.

Our thanks or lack thereof should not be a response to our present circumstances, but to the future life God has planned for us. He has something we need to learn from every trial, every joy. Our lives should be a continuous celebration of thanks and praise for all God has given us; the good, the bad and the ugly. This path will lead to a sense of joy and peace that can only be found IN the Father. It is the will of God.

So let us this Thanksgiving and always:

***IN** everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

All for the Glory of God,

-- Christina, WeigandChris.com

The Importance of Being Thankful

Living a life in gratitude and thanks can change your life for the better. Simply the act of giving thanks for the smallest things can change your outlook on your experience in this life. If you're a wife and a mother this can be especially helpful to look on each happening in your life in a new and grateful way, even when you're stressed out. We all go through ups and downs but if we can control our thoughts and the way we look at things to being thankful it will go far in helping us overcome almost anything.

Putting it in perspective — Think of a family who experiences a house fire. Their entire home and all the possessions inside are gone forever. Every picture, gone, every memory, gone. Yet, the family is alive, and they are overcome with joy and gratitude that they are still alive and healthy. They are often giddy with delight and happiness even as they lost everything else. It's only later, that the loss of the things comes into play, and the family members find it harder to be as thankful as they were at first. Being thankful for even the air you breathe can take practice and focus.

Start the day right – Each morning take time, even one minute, to say a small prayer of thanks to God. Even if you just thank God that the baby didn't wake up 20 times at night, or that you are fortunate enough to wake up at all, that's good enough. Your mood will change from day to day, go with the flow and just find one thing to thank God for, so that you can start the day in gratitude.

Turn your thoughts – When you are having a bad day or moment, try switching your thoughts. Baby screaming all day? Try being thankful that your baby can scream and is alive. See the sheer joy in the fact that your baby is healthy enough to let out a good loud scream! I know it's not that easy but it is very possible to change the way you think of things if you just try. Flipping your attitude from stress, or anger, to thankfulness will become second nature with practice.

Learning to be thankful that your husband is sitting on the couch with his feet up instead of helping you in the kitchen will take a lot of practice, but consider the alternatives. The alternative of not having him there at all is far too possible. This is not to say you should not ask for help, but it is to say that looking on the bright side of any situation can make you feel a lot more calm and happy and even joyous about life. The importance of thankfulness in your life will literally be the difference between having a full and happy life or a lonely miserable one. God calls us to be thankful and joyous in life, but no one said it would be easy. Just remember that with God all things are possible.

-- Courtney Chowning, [Biblical Mom](#)



Hmmm... Grandpa, the Seven Dwarfs, and Thankfulness



If someone gave you the choice to be one of the Seven Dwarfs for a day, which one would you pick? I would imagine many would choose to be Doc, the wise-looking leader of this band of small statured miners. Some might wish to be Dopey, the clumsy class clown, while others might prefer to be Bashful, the cute, shy one. However, I do not picture many wanting to be Grumpy, the one who always wears a frown on his face. Hmmm... how about Happy? Now there is a runt of a man with an attitude of gratitude, always joyous with laughter, a guy who reminds me of my Grandpa (that is him at left) whose nickname was Happy. He too, displayed an attitude of gratitude.

Dictionary.com describes gratitude as the quality or feeling of being grateful or thankful. Henry Ward Beecher, the brother of Harriet Beecher Stowe said, “The unthankful heart... discovers no mercies; but let the thankful heart sweep through the day and, as the magnet finds the iron, so it will find, in every hour, some heavenly blessings!”

Hmmm... gratitude may be an attitude but it is also a choice. Both Grumpy and Happy knew there was a choice, to acknowledge the many delightful blessings each day holds or turn a blind eye to them. However, Happy understood our thankfulness is not dependent on our degree of happiness, but our degree of happiness is dependent on our thankfulness. Knowing this secret gave Happy a joyous and thankful heart. [Psalm 100](#) gives us another secret to a thankful heart – the LORD God who showers us with

the heavenly blessings – for without an object of gratitude; it would be pointless to express our gratitude. So, what dwarf would you choose to be?

-- Karin Kinney, [My Hmmm Collection](#)

In Everything Give Thanks

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

With Thanksgiving just about a month away, I thought this was a great time to take part in the blog project at [Faithful Bloggers](#). This project is centered on “in everything give thanks.”

There are always challenges in life. The car breaks down, your kids are not behaving as you want them to, things aren't going well at church. These are things that go on at times. What's our reaction to be? Be thankful the car broke down? Well, I don't know about that, but we can be thankful that God is always faithful. He will provide a way.

God's faithfulness and love can always be counted on. He loves us even when we mess up. He still loves us when the car breaks down and when the kids are running around acting up.

At times, we have to *look* for God's faithfulness and provision. It's always there, but we can miss it. If we are too focused on the challenge, we may not see the blessing. Let's say the car breaks down. Then a friend calls and asks if you need a ride to church. If you are too busy complaining about the car to your friend, you can miss the fact that God just provided a way for you to get to church even without your own car. But we have to be open to looking and seeing the blessings.



A couple of weeks ago, my husband was called in to work on a Sunday afternoon. We always have a “date” on Sundays and go out to lunch. But when the call came, it put a stop to our plans. At first, we were both pretty bummed about it. But as we thought about it, we realized that he had just

gone to part-time status that week so that he could work more on building his web design business. The extra money he would earn for going in on the weekend would help us out. So, we were able to see the blessing in the situation. When we changed our focus, we could be thankful.

As we are leading up to Thanksgiving, take some special time to acknowledge God's faithfulness and blessings over the past year.

-- Laurie Neumann, [Christian Home Business Connection](#)

Thanks

Thanks for the things you have allowed me to go through
They have brought me Savior much closer to You
Thanks for the heartache, thanks for the pain
Thanks for the sunshine after the rain

Poverty, blindness, alcoholic parents, being orphaned, a child with a birth defect, widowed young, an alcoholic son, cancer, spinal cord injury. These are just the things I know about. Mom wrote this song in 1981 when she went deaf. She didn't know it wouldn't be permanent. Her faith challenges me.

Thanks for choosing one such as I
Thanks for being willing to die
Thanks for going to Calvary
Just so I could be happy and free

Happy? Really, with all she went through? Yes, I believe she was.

Thanks for Your love and thanks for Your care
Thanks for always being right there
Thanks for being my companion and guide
Thanks for always being by my side

She KNEW He was right there. I struggle to feel Him near. Her faith challenges me.

Thanks for things I don't understand
Thank for lending a helping hand
Thanks for strength each days tasks to do
But most of all Lord, thanks for You.

So many things we don't understand. Yet First Thessalonians 5:18 tells us to give thanks in ALL things, not just the things we understand, or the pleasant things. If I still had Mom's Braille Bible I would no doubt see her fingerprints on this verse. It may even be worn down a bit. She certainly lived it out. Her faith challenges me.

She sang this song just 2 weeks before her passing. The previous 7 months she had suffered the spinal cord injury that would make her bed bound with pain as her constant companion. Yet she sang. She couldn't read her Bible, her source of strength, anymore. Yet she sang and meant it.

Her faith challenged me.

-- Lisa Keck, [Ears in the Cornfield](#)

Thanks, In All Things

“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NIV



Being thankful in everything is often hard to do. It is hard to give thanks when things look grim and doomed. But God gently reminds us in this verse to give Him everything in prayer and thankfulness. As Thanksgiving is fast approaching, this quickly reminds me how much more I need to be thankful for everything that God has given me.

Look around you. Do you have food or water? Clothes and a roof over your head, in today's economy and times these are great reasons to be thankful. I can't imagine where I'd be if I didn't have any of those. I know how blessed I am everyday as I'm granted so many things. Yet, I sometimes, shamefully, I forget to say my thanks. I forget that Christ paid the ultimate sacrifice for us just so we could have all the things we have. Not just the earthly material things, but the things that can last us a life time. Things like love, family, church and many others just to name a few; I can't imagine my life without them. Yet, many are faced without.

When's the last time you sat down to write out your thankful list? If you haven't done it lately then I'd like to challenge you to do that this thanksgiving season. Sit down with your family and pass a jar around. Let everyone write the things they are thankful for on a piece of paper. Drop those things into the jar. Then, when things are looking down, have them pull one of those thankful things out of the jar. By doing this, it will make you remember just what you have. It will also change your tone of thinking.

Let's face it, every now and then—myself included has a rotten, no good, very bad day! It's nice in times like this to be reminded of what we have. . . isn't it? Stop complaining and be thankful. That's what this verse is reminding us. It is reminding us to be joyful. To be grateful for everything! My challenge for you is to make your list. Name 100 things you are grateful for. When you have finished them share them with your family. Share them with anyone. This is not a bragging time of what I have and what you don't. It is a time to be reminded of what God has blessed you with.

Reflection time is so important in a world like we are living in. It's a time to be reminded of the love that Christ has given. It's a time to be happy. Thanksgiving is a time of reflection. It causes you to think back over the year and see how you've made it through. It reminds us gently that He is in control of our lives.

“Father, Thank you for the things I have. I’m often selfish and I need to be reminded that it’s not always just about me. I need to be reminded of your love. I will always be grateful for your Son who died on the cross for me. I love you, Father. Amen.”

-- Christine M. Miller-Ramey, [My Traveled Paths](#)

Two Small Words

I looked around the crowded sanctuary. A group of believers had come together for the annual community-wide Thanksgiving service. People lifted their hands in praise and raised their voices in song as the worship team played. I mouthed the words, but my heart wasn’t in them.

Looking back, I cannot remember a single song from that night, nor can I remember the sermon. My mind was too preoccupied with thoughts of my recent diagnostic testing, an upcoming biopsy, and the possibility of surgery.

Give thanks in all circumstances. This is my will for you. The words of 1 Thessalonians 5:18 echoed in my head. *Give thanks? Lord, how can I be thankful if I have breast cancer?*

I glanced at my husband, at that time a nine-year cancer survivor, remembering the chemotherapy treatments and bone marrow transplant that he underwent. I watched a previously healthy 35-year-old man drop fifty-three pounds, struggle to eat even small amounts of food, and lose every hair on his body. I saw his normally healthy complexion turn to an almost ghostly white. The chemicals given to him to attack the cancer cells caused drastic personality changes. The entire ordeal was a nightmare.

Give thanks? No, we did not give thanks upon learning of his cancer diagnosis, nor during the treatments, but you can bet we were thankful when doctors pronounced him in remission. With each subsequent check-up and news that he had remained cancer free, we gave thanks. Facing the possibility of my having to undergo similar treatments, it was hard to feel thankful.

Two weeks later, I praised God when the results of my biopsy indicated the tumors were benign. Today, eighteen years after my husband's last cancer treatment, he has remained cancer free. Yes, we still express our thanks to God. But what if God had not chosen to heal my husband? What if my biopsy had revealed cancer?

It took me a long time to understand the words of 1 Thessalonians 5:18. *Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.* I read commentary after commentary, but none gave me a satisfactory answer.

One day, I had a "light bulb" moment. The scripture does not tell us to give thanks **for** all circumstances, but **in** all circumstances. We don't have to be thankful **for** cancer, **for** a job loss, or **for** whatever situation we might face. However, we can be thankful **in** every situation with the assurance that Jesus is with us and will be to the ends of the earth. He knows our every need and cares about every aspect of our lives.

Two small words make a big difference.

-- Joan, [Reflections of His Grace](#)

Thank You

I was reading at another site about Thanksgiving is coming up and so what are you thankful for or have you ever wrote anything in your blog. Although I know I have (or should have) written thank you to Jesus for His salvation, grace, favor, etc. but I could not shake it. So much more so while listening to a sermon, I felt led to write a little (mostly to Jesus).

I know audibly I have thanked You for many things--freedom, ability and opportunity for work, more finances coming into the business, etc.--but I question myself at the heart of this. You know it is easy to be "thankful" to God when things go well, money is in the bank, everybody doesn't hate us, etc. But are we thanking God because of those blessings we've received? I often remind my kids to be thankful to God even if He never provided you anything more than just salvation and nothing else, it is more than enough.

But how often do we give thanks to God just as much or more so in the lean versus only in times of plenty. Paul said that he knew how to be content regardless of his circumstances (Philippians 4:11-12).

Jesus, I know I audibly say this, but I truly do thank You. (Please understand my heart is sincere.) I tithe, give offerings, give to missionaries and oversea works. Although I am limited in some degrees, I offer my time (perhaps not as much as I use to when I was freer). You have tested me to give sacrificially and You've known my heart when I do give what You ask. Perhaps I feel not worthy of Your favor because I feel that words, deeds, or obedience is not enough to simply say "Thank You".

-- Robert, [Robert Williams Ministries](#)

Thankful Thursday: How Can I Reduce Caregiver Stress In Alzheimers Symptoms?

Autumn is one of my favorite times of the year.

I love the leaves turning, and the fields of crops ready for harvest. And the Thanksgiving Holiday in November.

It reminds me how important giving thanks is – especially in things like elder care.

When I was caring for my elderly mother, I was often exhausted and stressed. I had caregiver stress and was close to burnout. My sister helped me by giving me some much-needed respite.

Including finding me jokes or telling funny stories about her family. Laughter was indeed the best medicine at that point.

In a moment of reflection, I started giving thanks for her. Her love and compassion meant more to me in those dark hours than I can ever express.

Amazingly, I found as I gave thanks my caregiver stress reduced. Initially only for a moment or two, but it was enough. And I started finding other

things to be grateful for. Small things that might not mean much to anyone else. They helped. Leading to giving thanks for bigger things.

I felt a major shift in my energy. Giving thanks enabled me to change the negative circumstances into something positive.

One of the biggest problems with Alzheimers symptoms and other dementia symptoms is finding something—anything—positive.



How do you find something to be grateful for in dementia?

Loss of memory is tragic, and painful. And it can be a BIG challenge to find something positive.

When Mary looks at the news reports these days, she says she is grateful. Grateful her mother can no longer understand the news.

Mary's mother would be very upset at the news. Growing up during The Great Depression and World War II, she always worried about—well—*everything*. The negative news and tragedies of today likely would be too much for Mary's mother to handle.

And Mary's mother was brought up to be a lady. She would find the often mean-spirited comments and arguments among so-called experts intolerable.

Mary says she's grateful she still has her mother, even though her mother's brain is affected by dementia.

What one thing can you be grateful for today?

Alarm Clock, Cute Kid, or a Rooster.. it's what happens next that matters most.

I love this...

**DEAR GOD,
I WANNA TAKE A
MINUTE, NOT TO ASK
FOR ANYTHING FROM
YOU, BUT SIMPLY TO
SAY THANK YOU,
FOR ALL I HAVE.**

.. because I think it is important to say thank you to God, not just run down our laundry list of needs and want.. *all the while whining about what we don't have*.. which is an easy habit that I am guilty of getting into. Sometimes it is easier to be focused on what we DON'T have then on what we do.

I am blessed with many things to be thankful for; family, friends, friends that are like family, a roof over my head, and a church family that I absolutely love... just to name a few in no particular order. But most of all I am thankful for the grace and mercy of God in my life and for His never ending patience, love, and faithfulness that He shows me on a daily basis.

So tomorrow when we wake up to this...



or maybe this...



or heaven forbid this... (forgive me, I am city girl..hehe)



Let's remember this...

"Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is good!*
For His mercy *endures* forever." Psalm 118:29

Have a blessedly thankful day,
Tobi

-- Tobi, [Simple Jesus Ministries..](#)

Am I Thankful?



My two healing partners: crutches and walker with my
hope for the journey reminders: leash to walk the dog, and a soccer ball
to dribble by the shoreline (a favorite activity)

***...give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you
in Christ Jesus.
1 Thessalonians 5:18***

Sometime in Fall, I start to reflect on the year that is winding itself down to a close. I look back, on the hopes I had in January for all the "good things" that God had for me for that particular year. I ask Him to reveal what I need to see as I look back. I usually ask the questions, "What is useful to my walk with You, Lord and in my relationship with others?" and "What do I need to learn from this year as I go ahead?". Fall is a reflective season for me as I journey toward the holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas and seek to stay grounded, thankful and connected through the bustle of what is to come, a culmination of the days leading to, God willing, another year. So, with that in mind and this year in particular I ask myself the question, "Am I thankful"?

What pops into your mind when you think about thankfulness? I know for me it's good stuff! Good things. God given, good things. Generally, I don't think I am thankful for the negative, bad, rotten things that may have happened. My mind goes right to the good stuff!

Enter the Mind of Christ.

This year my take home lesson, started with the anticipation of good things, but was interrupted by what could only be described as, well, let's just say less than equal to the good things anticipated! AT least by a temporal perspective.

In February, while driving my daughter and her friend home for a sleepover, interruption number one occurred. While sitting at a red light, we were struck from behind by a car that was sitting behind us, which had been hit by a Pick- Up Truck that never even slowed down! **CRASH!** So it began. My abrupt wakeup call beckoning. Could I be thankful, in every circumstance? This present circumstance?

The girls were shaken but physically unharmed.

The car was totaled.

I woke up the next day, surprised by the pain I felt. Whiplash. And an un-drivable car. (I want to add that I continued to work my regular hours, including classes while I went through the Physical Therapy for this. I pushed through and endured the pain because I knew my boss and clients were counting on me with no "back-up" plan. We also did not pursue a law

suit but settled for coverage of medical cost for treatment and "fair" compensation for my car.)

Thankful?

Instead, I asked, thanklessly, "Why, Lord?"

The still, small whisper, returned, "Trust me, I am here".

Changes came this year. Unplanned. Unexpected. Completely without warning.

All.

Circumstances.

Ouch.

Sometimes it hurts to follow you, Lord.

The welcome weather of Spring and a fun-filled, anticipated school Field Day. As a mom, you bet I was there, to help, enjoy and share the day with my daughter and the wonderful school community.

Having taught 4 1/2 hours worth of moderate to intense type classes the day before, I would not have anticipated an injury. Obstacle courses are after all my business, more or less. But, on this day, there was one last squat, bend, twist and **SNAP!** I felt it. Wake up call. I ignored it. Until my husband found me crawling on the floor at three in the morning because I couldn't walk, or get back in the bed after I had slithered my way to the kitchen for another ice pack. We were off to the emergency room. Welcome interruption number two. All. Circumstances. Ouch. It really hurts, Lord.

I work in the world of Fitness. Walking therefore, is a very minimal requirement. No walking possible. Pain, probable. Movement. Not happening. The Hip is complex, and so was the injury. Bone fleck, tear, Arthrogram, MRI, x-ray. Fearful words. Work as I knew it was halted. I literally went from active to sedentary. Halt. Thankful? No, afraid, yes.

June, brought a final word from my boss. I was no longer a good fit for the future of the company. What good is a Fitness Instructor who can't move,

teach, train? I wondered the same thing myself as I absorbed that blow.
Strike 3!

Was I thankful? Sorry to confess, I was angry, hurt, sad. I heard the Lord's voice: "I am with you, do not be discouraged or afraid."

I look back on this year and I see pain and loss. But I also see his hand intricately involved in **redirecting my course** and **redefining me**.

My hope remains because hope resides in me:

*To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**.*
Colossians 1:27

The reality is, there has been good which has come from each of these circumstances, that look so bad from a superficial perspective. Beneath the surface is where truth roots deeply and where faith is grown. **Am I thankful?** Ultimately the answer is, yes. Was I thankful during the wake-up calls that God allowed into my life this year? Not initially. But **ultimately**.

*I know that my redeemer lives,
and that in the end he will stand on the earth.*

Job 19:25

I CAN and will give thanks in all circumstances ULTIMATELY because

He has called me to it and He makes it possible for me to do it:

I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Phillippians 4:13

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according

to the plan of him who works out

everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,

*in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ,
might be for the praise of his glory.*

Ephesians 1:11-12

-- Dawn Paoletta, [Beneath the Surface](#)

In EVERYTHING Give Thanks?



Be Thankful and Praise HIM in All things

JESUS my Lord and Savior

***First Thessalonians 5:16 -18* tells us...“Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks; for it is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”**

You might be thinking...Can that be true? Am I actually supposed to be joyful forever, pray continually, give thanks in everything, and trust that everything is God’s will for me?

This scripture encourages us to joyfully call-upon and glorify God throughout our life; continually, without stopping or finishing. We are to draw near to God and seek His face in prayer daily...little by little, over and over again. It also reminds us to be thankful in everything because it is God's will for us who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, in unity with God the Father, through our relationship with Him.

Why would we thank God in the midst of our problems? James explains it this way, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance." *James 1:2-4*

In *2 Corinthians 7:4* Paul said, "I am exceedingly joyful in all our tribulation". He knew, even though he was going through trials, that God was working all things together for his good. –*Romans 8:28*

Perservance in tribulation brings about the process of sanctification; which consecrates, dedicates, blesses, makes holy, purifies, approves, and sets apart believers due to accepting a relationship with Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Is everything concerning me truly the will of God ?

What about the death of my child, my illness, my loved one's terminal illness, natural disasters, divorce, abandonment, financial debts I can't pay, job loss, the murder of my loved one, being robbed, being raped, my homelessness, my addiction, imprisonment, unfairness in my life, other's lies about me, the fright of global turmoil...and on, and on?

What about all those dreadful human conditions we encounter that bring pain, suffering, anxiety, loss, and grief? Can we truly approach God with a thankful heart, mind, and words while deep in the midst of worldly adversity?

It is easy and right to praise God on the good days and for all the good things in our lives and the lives of those we love. We are ever so willing to give Him thanks for our home, good health, happiness, finances to meet our needs, food to quench our hunger, employment, position, children, and so on.

However, *1 Thessalonians 5:18* appoints us to give thanks in *all* circumstances that He allows, and to know that everything is His will in Christ Jesus in relation to us.

All is the opposite of nothing; it means every part of every thing.

What about the bad days? What about the days filled with complaints, hissy-fits, deep sorrow, and the ugliest circumstances of our life when it is clearly not easy to praise the Lord? One test of our faith is learning to praise Him in *all things*...no matter how difficult the circumstances. That's a tall order.

Praise Him in the midst of your circumstance. Though He does not promise an earthly life of continual bliss and happiness, He does promise His comfort and perfect peace in the midst of the storm. He wants us to allow our life circumstance to become a sacrifice of praise...all to His glory.

Giving Him *thanks* in all things leads to believing and understanding that we are to *praise* Him in all things! We are to glorify Him, worship Him, honor Him, applaud Him, and exalt Him...be truly thankful to Him in all things.

Step out of the boat...take His hand...in trust, faith and thankfulness. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete...not lacking anything.

If we are not thankful and praising Him in the midst of our difficulties, we must ask this profound question: Who is getting the glory in the midst of my storm... if not God?

The answer is difficult...and one we don't like to consider.

The evil one is always waiting in the wings...lying, conniving; nay saying; working overtime to convince us that life is terrible, there is nothing to be thankful for, and that God does not care for or love us; if He did, He would not allow the pain, not only in our life, but throughout the world for all time. Part of the evil one's mission is to plant questions and doubt so we will not praise God and be thankful in the midst of our brokenness, which gives him a toe-hold into our minds, hearts, and body.

However, God has a plan for our lives that is often worked out through adversity. Are we willing to trust God and let Him mold and shape us according to His will? Are we willing to be led; willing to go, to be, to do, and to accept everything God might choose for us?

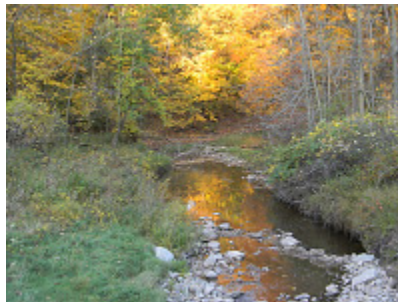
“But now, O Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You our potter; and all we are the work of Your hand.” Isaiah 64:8

Oh, that every day would be a Thanksgiving Day; that we would be thankful, cheerful and glad; praising and exalting Him in the midst of our problems; trusting His perfect will in all things.

Psalm 55:22 says, “Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall.”

-- Anastasia Diamond, [Jesus My Lord And Savior](#)

Choosing Thankfulness



“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:18

I have found it hard to be thankful in difficult times. Hard but necessary. Life can bring you down fast and when you are not thankful, I believe we suffer even more. I think we are instructed to be thankful because it is for our own good. But really, what is there to be thankful for 'in all circumstances', especially hard times?

As I get older and experience more ups and downs of life, I learn by looking back on how my life has been woven. Have you ever looked back and been thankful for some hard time in the past? Because you see how things turned out and if you hadn't gone through that hard time, things would not be as they are now. As I see those times, I have thought to myself that if I am thankful for them now then shouldn't I also be thankful for those times while going through them?

If I truly believe that God is in control and wants the best for me, then what do I have to worry about? If I know that for those who love God *all things* work together for good (Rom 8:28), then what is there to fret about? When we are not concerned about life, I believe it is hard to not be thankful. I can then be thankful that God is taking care of things and I don't have to figure it out. Thankful that he has created me with a plan in mind. Just plain thankful that God hasn't struck me dead which is what I deserve. Thankful that God sent his son in my place so I could have new life in him. Now that's something to be thankful for! Thankful for our life that we will have in heaven and all our tears will be wiped away! Not a trace.

I just witnessed a commercial during the Sunday football games. It was someone who was extremely thankful for being alive because of the medical intervention they received. They saw how much they had to be thankful for having gone through this life-threatening ordeal. So much to live for. As Christians, we should have the same outlook. We have so much to be thankful for just because we are alive and don't have to die in our sin. Really, just that knowledge should be enough to live a thankful life 'in all circumstances'. I think that when you come to a point and realize this, your life is reflected in thankfulness.

That all makes sense in my mind and I agree whole heartedly in my heart. The hard part is stepping out in faith to believe it. Faith to know without a doubt that God will make it all work out should bring me into thanksgiving for having done it -- even before I see it.

I have not always been thankful in all my circumstances. But I am beginning to see how God's hand is in everything and it makes me realize that I have so much to be thankful for. Just thankful that I don't have to figure it all out. I may become discouraged about certain circumstances, but just knowing that God is there for me to help me through is reason

enough to be thankful.

I don't know about you, but I am so thankful I don't have to know ahead of time how it's going to be all good in the future. I simply don't understand my life in the past or even currently what is going on. But I AM excited and thankful for the future and my new body without any aches or pains, either in this life or the next. When I look back, it really won't matter because it's all good already!

So much to be thankful for!

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