

Raise the Praise – Nov. 17, 2021

1 Thess. 5:18 – “give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

It shouldn’t be conditional worship. Paul wrote from prison. Pain.

“All” – that’s hard. Easy when it’s good....

Doesn’t say give thanks **for** all . . . but **in** all.

Is God worthy of praise? Or just worthy today?

True praise... who He is. Uncon’l love. Not alone. Grace.

Psalm 103:1-2 – “Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, & forget not all his benefits— “

Benefits? More than blessings, grace, mercy. This is a benefit:

Rom. 8: 28 – “we know that in all things **God works for the good** of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

God works for good ... from bad. From difficulties. Disappointments.

When we give Thanks in our challenges . . . praise in a storm – now THAT is a powerful witness.

Faith that’s been tested is faith that’s touching. It’s testimony...touches us.

Apostle Paul – knew what God wanted him to do; trusted that God would use any hardship to accomplish something wonderful and unexpected.

- Jailed w/ Silas – for setting a girl free of a spirit. (**Acts 16**)
- Owners’ Lied – throwing city into uproar & advocating unlawful customs for Romans to accept or practice.
- Magistrates 1st ordered then stripped & beaten (flogged), jailed.
- Led jailer & family to the Lord. Filled w/joy.
- **Acts 16:40** – “After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia’s house, where they met with the brothers and sisters and encouraged them.”
 - Why? **Purpose for the Pain**. Reason for Praise ... didn’t focus on the flogging, but on the saving.
 - **Our stories are encouraging for others!!**

Why did this happen? ... Tests give us testimony... messes our messages. Challenges provide connections w/each other. **Detours - divine blessings**

Ex: Lilly Walters at dr's office. ½ Hand. Sick to be a blessing.

“Normal is average; different is wonderful.” Divine appt.

Came away talking about it. Praising. Thanks-in-all-circumstances.

Not a hindrance but a help . . . to make another's life better.

To testify about God.

No accidents. God is always directing our paths. He puts the right people there... sometimes we're the RIGHT people... the ones others need to meet

Ex: potential bride on the plane. Preacher's wife. Answer to Prayer.

https://www.swnewsmedia.com/savage_pacer/news/opinion/columnists/spiritual-reflections-there-are-no-chance-meetings/article_50b32a5b-7912-5be7-a396-3d8794bc54e7.html

Don't wait for life to be perfect to praise God.

Praise for who He is, not what He's done today.

Praise Him in all things... all circumstances.

Praise Him for detours & challenges... your connections. Chance to shine.

Praise Him for storms... the opportunities to be a blessing.

Your praise in all circumstances will make the biggest witness.

Anyone can give praise when life is great.

The powerful witn. is the 1 who is positive ... thankful ... praising when they could be down, negative, etc.

Stay positive. Test negative. Vaccinated.

Song of the week: Praise You in This Storm by Casting Crowns.