Connections Church

Pastor David Whitehead

November 21, 2021

BEING THANKFUL IN HARD TIMES

"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

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1. FOR	
"You have been saved by grace through believing. You did not save	

yourselves; it was a gift from God." Ephesians 2:8 (NCV)

"I will...not forget the glorious things God does for me. He forgives all my sins. He heals me. He ransoms me from hell. He surrounds me with love... He fills my life with good things... He is merciful and tender toward those who don't deserve it; He is slow to get angry... He never bears a grudge... He has not punished us as we deserve for our sins." Psalm 103:2-10 (LB)

2. FOR

"For <u>I know the plans I have for you</u>, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11 (TLB)

"We know that in all things God works for the GOOD of those who love him, and have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28 (NIV)

"When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will NOT consume you!" Isaiah 43:2 (NLT)

4. FOR

"We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation." Romans 5:3-4 (NLT)

"For God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey him and the power to do what pleases him." Philippians 2:13 (NLT)

"As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him." 2 Corinthians 3:18 (LB)

5. FORJesus: "I am going there to <u>prepare a place for you</u>. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am!" John 14:2-3 (NIV)

"Then the King will say, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world." Matthew 25:34 (NIV)

"We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus and present us to himself together with you.

So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever."

2 Corinthians 4:8-9, 14, 18 (NLT)

Life-Changing Prayer to Commit My Life To Jesus:

Dear Lord Jesus.

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins and rose again to offer me this precious gift. I want to turn away from my sins. I now invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior. In Jesus' name, Amen.