



Repentance Tabernacle Church

RepentanceTabernacle@gmail.com
www.RepentanceTabernacle.org (984) 369-5171

Give Thanks!

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

Paul wrote this to early Christians facing trials, encouraging them to trust God's sovereignty and find reasons to be grateful, demonstrating faith that He is working for their good. We can express this gratitude in different ways—journaling, praise, song, prayer, and tears.

Our joy, prayers, and thankfulness to God should not fluctuate with our circumstances or feelings. For this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus, a command to maintain a thankful heart not for the bad things themselves, but because God is greater and works through all situations, fostering trust and peace. It's seen as a spiritual discipline, aligning one's heart with God's purpose, even amidst hardships like persecution or lack, rather than being happy about the difficulties.

This means giving thanks during good times and bad, not necessarily for the bad things, but within them, recognizing God's presence and purpose. Thankfulness isn't optional; it's central to the children of God's life, a directive for those in Christ. It's a call to practice gratitude as a way of life, fostering reliance on God and contentment. It challenges believers to focus on God's goodness, countering anxiety and promoting peace, as the brain can't easily hold both fear and thankfulness.

Giving thanks in everything often goes against our natural inclinations. When we make a conscious decision to do what God says, however, we will begin to see people in a new perspective. When we do God's will, we will find it easier to be thankful. Paul was not teaching that we should thank God for everything that happens to us, but in everything. Evil does not come from God, so we should not thank him for it. But when evil strikes, we can still be thankful for God's presence and for the good He will accomplish through the distress.

The children of God should be thankful and faithful every day. Usually during the Thanksgiving holiday, we focus on our blessings and express our gratitude to God for them. But thanks should be on our lips daily. We can never say thank you enough to parents, friends, leaders, and especially to God. When thanksgiving becomes an integral part of your life, you will find that your attitude toward life will change. You will become more positive, gracious, loving and humble.

As we thank God for material and spiritual blessings, we should also thank Him for answered prayer. Remember when you asked God for protection, strength, comfort, patience, love, or other special needs and He supplied them? Beware of taking God's provision and answer prayer for granted.

Jesus healed all 10 lepers, but only one returned to thank Him (Luke 17:16). Not only was this man a leper, he was also a Samaritan—a race despised by the Jews as idolatrous half-breeds. God's grace is for everybody. It is possible to receive God's great gifts with an ungrateful spirit—9 of the 10 men did so. Only the thankful man, however, learned that his faith had played a role in his healing; and only grateful children of God grow in understanding of God's grace. God does not demand that we thank Him, but He is pleased when we do so, and He uses our responsiveness to teach us more about Himself.

Gratitude has the power to transform our perspective. When we take time to count our blessings, even in the midst of challenges, we begin to see God's hand at work in our lives. Each day is filled with small, beautiful gifts—sunrises that paint the sky, the warmth of a friend's smile, a moment of peace amidst the chaos. These daily blessings are reminders of God's presence and His loving care.

Thankfulness isn't about ignoring the difficult parts of life; it's about choosing to recognize God's goodness, even in the midst of them. When we cultivate a heart of gratitude, we invite joy to take root, pushing our worry and fear. As we give thanks in every circumstance, we find that our hearts are lifted, and we begin to see life through a lens of hope. Today, take a moment to pause and reflect on the blessings God has poured into your life, and let your heart be filled with gratitude.