

MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY



NO MATTER WHAT – GIVE THANKS

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

Anyone who knows me will tell you that when someone greets me or asks me how I am, the response is always the same – “I am blessed!” It doesn’t matter if I’m lying in a hospital bed after surgery, preaching in an awesome worship service, busting knuckles on a car engine, or leading someone to Jesus, I know I’m blessed. That response is my way of offering my thanks and gratitude to Jesus for all He’s done for me. Let’s discuss circumstantial gratitude in this lesson titled “No Matter What – Give Thanks!”

1. Share some of the situations, circumstances, or people that make it **EASY** for you to give thanks to God.
2. Now share some of the situations, circumstances, or people who make it especially **DIFFICULT** to be thankful to Jesus.
3. Should a Christians’ joy, prayers, and thankfulness fluctuate with varying circumstances and feelings? Why or why not?

“Give thanks in ALL circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV).

4. **WHY** should we give thanks in ALL circumstances? Why is that statement true? See Romans 8:28
5. Do you believe that God is sovereign, and can redeem any situation?
6. Does this verse teach that we should thank God **FOR** all our circumstances, or rather **IN** them? What’s the difference? (**Hint:** Evil does not come from God, so we shouldn’t thank God for it. But when evil DOES come, we can be thankful for God’s presence and for the good He will accomplish through the distress.)

The natural question to all this is – **HOW** can we condition ourselves to give thanks to God no matter what? What can we do that prepares us to always give thanks – no matter what? I believe God’s Word says what it means and means what it says, and I also believe we can always gather important information about Scripture from the scriptures surrounding it (context).

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:15-21. There are nine exhortations for Christians in these verses, including the one to “give thanks in all circumstances.”

7. Be kind to each other (fellow believers) and to everyone else (non-believers). That makes two.
8. How many of the other seven commands can you name?
9. Discuss a couple of these commands as a group – whichever ones are meaningful to you.

PRAYER: As a group, recognize just how “blessed” you are, and give thanks to God through Jesus. Ask God to help you fulfill these scriptural admonitions so you will be able to give thanks in all things, no matter what.