

Thanksgiving

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
11.01.26
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1 Thessalonians 5:18 *,give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.* (NIV)

It is God's will that we have
Grateful Hearts and Thankful Lives.

BARRIERS ----------

Entitlement: Sees blessings as things owed rather than gifts received.

Romans 11:33-36 *Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! 34 "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" 35 "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?" 36 For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.* (NIV)

Comparison: Focuses on what others have instead of appreciating what God has given us.

John 21:20-22 *Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is going to betray you?") 21 When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?" 22 Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me."* (NIV)

Discontentment: Postpones gratitude until we get what we think we're missing.

Philippians 4:11b-13 *…, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.* (NIV)

Forgetfulness: Lets current challenges overshadow God's past faithfulness.

Psalm 106:13 *But they (Israelites) soon forgot what he had done and did not wait for his plan to unfold.* (NIV)

PRACTICES ----------

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 *Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.* (NIV)

- **Recognize God's goodness.** – see it.
- **Remember God's faithfulness.** – mark it.
- **Respond to God's provision.** – show it.

FOUNDATION ----------

JESUS

Ephesians 2:1-10 *As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.* (NIV)

- **Life instead of Death.**
- **Mercy instead of Wrath.**
- **Grace instead of Works.**
- **Salvation instead of Destruction.**
- **Purpose instead of Aimlessness.**

What is keeping me from having a
Grateful Heart and a Thankful Life?