

Thankfulness - A Foundational Attitude for All Believers

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18;

2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Romans 8:28;



Introduction:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: “*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*”

Thankfulness is not something we should contemplate once a year as we enjoy some turkey, stuffing, and potatoes. Thankfulness is something that should be a daily attitude in us!

What is thankfulness? Very simply put, it is the attitude of humble gratitude for all that we have, all that is done for us, and even for what has not been rightly done to us.

Luke 17:11-19 — Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers

Why isn't everyone thankful? **Romans 1:21** - “*although they knew God, they did not... give thanks to him*”

Thanklessness the natural attitude of the world.

The natural attitude of every Christian should be thankfulness in all things — toward God, toward others, at all times and in all circumstances.

1. True thankfulness grows in the heart of one who knows and believes the gospel.

The expectation, the command, for all Christians, is to give thanks in all circumstances.

The reason this is so difficult is because we are forgetting the gospel truth in our lives, and not living in light of that gospel daily.

When we truly understand what we deserved, and instead see what we've been given, how can we not shout out in joy of pure thankfulness?

Psalms 103:1-14: “*Bless the Lord O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!*”

2. This thankfulness should pour out into every aspect of our lives both toward God and toward our neighbors.

Ephesians 5:3-4, 18-20: “*let there be thanksgiving... giving thanks always and for everything...*”

Colossians 2:6-7: “*abounding in thanksgiving”; 3:15-17: “with thankfulness in your heart to God... giving thanks to God the Father”; 4:2: “continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving”*

How many times does God's word need to repeat the fact that we are to be thankful before we get it?

2 Corinthians 9:6-15: “*Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!*”

Thanks toward God that should be inside every believer's heart should OVERFLOW out into every other aspect of our lives!

Thank him, every day and every moment, for all that He has provided for you!

3. Believers should be thankful in all circumstances

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 tells us to give thanks in all circumstances, not only in the good times.

When times are bad, the reason we are not thankful is because we're not thinking rightly about God!

Romans 8:28: “*for those who love God all things work together for good*”

Phil. 4:4-7: “*in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God... will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*”

Conclusion:

Luke 7:36-50 - true gratitude

We have a God who works all things together for us, His people, and showed us the most gracious kindness and love when He sent His Son to die for us on the cross, and saved us from our own sins.

Remember this, every day. Dwell on this, every day, and you will find it easy to be thankful.