

# Give Thanks

## Cultivating Gratitude In Every Season

### Always, In All Things

#### 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



Sermon Notes | Jeff Randleman | November 3, 2024

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*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (ESV)

#### **The Transformative Power of Thankfulness:**

Gratitude is \_\_\_\_\_ for us. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Gratitude is not merely a suggestion but a command and part of God's will for our lives. Choosing to be grateful, even when it's hard, aligns us with God's purpose and helps us trust him more.

Gratitude is a \_\_\_\_\_. (Colossians 3:15)

Gratitude shifts our hearts from focusing on what we lack to appreciating what God has given.

Gratitude is a reflection of \_\_\_\_\_. (Romans 8:28)

When we choose gratitude, we declare our belief that God is working all things for good, even when we don't understand how. Gratitude strengthens our faith and reminds us that God's plans are bigger than our immediate understanding.

Gratitude is a powerful \_\_\_\_\_. (Philippians 4:4-7)

A grateful life is a testimony of God's goodness and faithfulness. When we choose to be thankful, we display to others the hope and peace that only God can provide.

#### **Next Steps:**

Practice gratitude as a spiritual discipline.

Share your gratitude as an example.

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Matters for Reflection and Discussion:

1. Why do you think Paul emphasizes giving thanks in all circumstances? How might this differ from how we naturally think about gratitude?
2. How does practicing gratitude as a spiritual discipline change our perspective on difficult situations?
3. Why do you think gratitude is part of "God's will" for us? How might it shape our relationship with Him?
4. In what ways does gratitude help us trust in God's sovereignty, even when we don't understand our circumstances?
5. Why is it sometimes difficult to be grateful, even when we know it brings peace and aligns with God's will? How can we address those challenges?
6. How can expressing gratitude in difficult seasons serve as a witness to others? Have you ever seen this impact someone?
7. What are some practical ways you can start developing a daily discipline of gratitude? How might these practices change your daily outlook?
8. Who in your life serves as an example of living with gratitude, regardless of circumstances? What specific things do they do to cultivate this attitude, and what can we learn from their example?