

Giving God thanks is God's will for you.

**1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18** *“Rejoice evermore. (17) Pray without ceasing. (18) In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”*

Thanksgiving is important to every believer, not the holiday but everyday giving thanks to God. The word “thanksgiving” is mentioned 28 times in 27 verses of the bible. The word means - an extension of the hand, that is, (by implication) avowal – which means to credit God openly. - It also means a choir of worshippers of confession, praise, and thanks. Vines gives this definition, - "to acknowledge fully, to celebrate fully in praise with thanksgiving" With these definitions, does any of them say to thank God for only good things in our life? God said in verse (18) “In every thing give thanks” Why do we give thanks in EVERYTHING? **“for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”** And this should cause us to (16) “Rejoice evermore.” And (17) “Pray without ceasing.” Giving God continual thanks for everything. We must understand that all things are in God's hand and power, we must understand that God has purposed it for us in our life even if we think it is good or bad. God said in, **Romans 8:26-28** *“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”* Our entire life is God's will for us, even the things we think is bad. Please understand that God puts things in our life as learning and growing tools. God puts things in our life for His glory and therefore when it happens, whether good or bad, we are living out God's will. To dislike God's will in our life is to be selfish. If we cannot or do not give God the glory for everything in our life, then we are sinning against the will of God in our life.

A. I will bless the Lord in thanksgiving.

1. David wrote in **Psalms 26:7 - 8** *“That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works. (8) LORD, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth.”* – Not tell of just the good works, but *“tell of all thy wondrous works.”* Because we know *“that all things work together for good to them that love God”*.

2. Here is why David wrote these words, he was giving God public thanks for His life. Psalms 26:1 “...*Judge me, O LORD; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore I shall not slide.*”
    - a. David prayed to God, “...*Judge me, O LORD; for I have walked in mine integrity*” The word “integrity” means – “I shall not be moved. My feet will be firm, and I shall be secure.” -Albert Barnes.
    - b. “I shall be preserved from swerving from the paths of righteousness and truth.” - Adam Clarke
    - c. Christians that are grown in the Lord, that are learned of the will and actions of God, that truly believe that do not just believe but know that “*that all things work together for good to them that love God*” will not “slide” but thank God for every thing in their life.
- B. True Christians will never depart from our faith if we trust God in everything.
1. **1 Timothy 4:4-5** “*For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: (5) For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.*”
    - a. The purpose in which God created every creature for is good, man has caused evil and sin. Mankind leaves God, God does not leave man. Christians leave God, it is God that promised, “*I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*” Heb. 13:5 man cannot make that promise.
    - b. “...*and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:*” That is whatever God has said or done in our life, we are to thank God for it all.
  2. Let us read the 107<sup>th</sup> Psalm and let us see if it fits our life as well as it did Israel’s.
  3. Doesn’t this Psalm prove exactly what our study is, that no matter what happens, God causes it to be for our good, therefore we give God thanks for everything.