

# Thankful in All Things

## 1 Thessalonians 5:18

*"Give thanks in everything, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." - 1 Thess. 5:18*

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**Main Point:** When we choose to give thanks in all circumstances God changes our perspective and allows us to share His grace with the world around us.

**Introduction:** Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

What is your favorite Thanksgiving dish? Favorite Thanksgiving tradition?

What are you most thankful for this year?

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**Have a Volunteer Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18.**

The church in Thessalonica had been experiencing persecution. In the midst of trying times it's easy to turn away from God and get frustrated. The purpose of Paul's letter was to encourage those in Thessalonica to be thankful even when things were not going well around them. His message still carries weight today when we question what there is to be thankful for in life.

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The first level of thanksgiving is the **ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE.** (v.18)

Read the story of Jesus and the lepers in Luke 17:11-19. What does the passage tell us about these men, particularly the one who gave thanks? How did Jesus respond?

When has someone walked away from you and not given thanks for something you just did? Why do we like it when people say thank you?

Knowing the positive emotional energy that comes with someone giving thanks and how much we covet that feeling, how much more do you think God wants to hear us say thank you? Why don't we?

What can you do this week to have a better attitude of gratitude?

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The second level of thanksgiving in your life is **ALTITUDE OF GRATITUDE.** (v.18)

Read a portion of David's Psalm of Thanksgiving in **1 Chronicles 16:19-22**. Do you think the Israelites were giving thanks when wandering from place to place?

What does this passage tell us they had to be thankful for? What did David know now that they didn't know then?

What difficulties are you facing now that, when you step back and see with God's eyes, you can give thanks for? Giving thanks may not change your circumstance, but how would it change what the circumstance does to you?

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The third level of thanksgiving is the **LATITUDE OF GRATITUDE**. (v.18)

What have you been thankful for lately that you shared with someone else?

While you may be internally thankful for Jesus, why is it so hard at times to be externally thankful and share our thankfulness with others?

Our English word for 'gratitude' is the same as the word 'grace' used in this passage. How can we do a better job of expressing our gratitude in front of others, and thereby extending God's grace to them?

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***Pray:***

As you close your group time pray that God would reveal to you where you have fallen short in giving thanks to Him and to those around you. Praise Him for the wonderful God He is and the salvation and joy He brings through Jesus. Ask the Lord to show you where you can express gratitude in every day life to be a witness of His grace to others.

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***Connect:***

Check out this YouTube video of Dr. S.M. Lockridge describing the King of Kings. Reflect on his words and all the reasons we have to be thankful for knowing Jesus.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzqTFNfeDnE&sns=fb>