

THANKSGIVING 2018

11/26/18

I was struck this last week by the correlation between thankfulness and peace. We find them connected in a number of passages. In [Philippians 4:4-8](#) we see them closely related. We are to pray with thanksgiving and the peace of God will guard our hearts. In [Colossians 3:15](#) Paul admonished his readers to let the peace of God rule in their hearts and to be thankful.

As I was thinking about it, the only way to experience the peace of God is through thankfulness. And I believe that true thankfulness is not based on life's circumstances, but based on the character of God and His mighty work.

No matter what circumstances bring, God is always present and powerful in those circumstances. We can be thankful that He knows our circumstances, that He is in charge, and that He can overcome our circumstances. As I choose to give thanks, it is then I find that God's peace does take over – His peace that doesn't make much sense, because it is a reality regardless of our circumstances.

I would encourage you this week to begin your day with thanksgiving, particularly in light of who God is and what He has done for us in saving us.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. How does rejoicing in the Lord and knowing that God is always at hand allow us to not panic when life takes a rough turn? ([Philippians 4:5](#))
2. Panic, frustration, or fear are natural responses. How do we learn to rejoice when those feelings well up?
3. Describe the peace that passes understanding. When have you experienced that peace? What allowed you to experience that peace?
4. Where in your life can you apply this truth this week?