

“Give Thanks”

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Tuesday Bible Lunch

November 14, 2023

Introduction: There are things that we are not 100% sure are God’s will. There is no specific Bible verse or biblical principal to make clear something is God’s will. A verse that helps me in these situations is Colossians 3:15. On the other hand, there are multitudes of things that we know are God’s will because the Bible says so. Today, we look at one thing we know is God’s will. It is one of the things the Bible makes clear is God’s will that Christians fail to obey most—give thanks. It is God’s will to give thanks.

Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:18

- It is the will of God that believers give thanks.
- But before you can give thanks, you must be thankful.

Application: You can’t give something you do not have!

1. Before you can give thanks, you must be thankful.

- The Greek word translated “thankful” (*eucharisteo*) conveys having good feelings regardless of what happens.
- The good feeling is the result of making a choice to obey God by focusing on the good.

Illustration: When Dottie and I give out tithe and offering to the church, I always feel-good inside. When we gave our Harvest Day gift, I had a good feeling about it.

T.S. The hard part of 1 Thessalonians 5:18 is the first part of the verse—“in everything.”

- The phrase in the Greek language (*en panti*) means in every detail, in every circumstance.
- In everything includes the good or bad we experience in life.

2. Thankfulness is a choice.

- The choice is to obey God by focusing on the good or to disobey God by focusing on the bad.
- The flesh nature focuses on the bad.
- The Spirit nature focuses on the good.
- There is always the battle between the flesh and the Spirit (Romans 7).
- The Holy Spirit in us helps us focus on the good.

Application: Ask God to help you focus on the good whatever the circumstance. This will help you be a thankful person and then you can give thanks.

Illustration: Dr. Abraham John does this. When he enters the exam room and you ask him how he is, he always responds “blessed.”

I need to work at this. When people ask me how I am doing, I need to say “thankful.” I think this will help me keep my focus on the good whatever the situation.

Yesterday, I saw Dottie do what thankful people do—**GIVE THANKS!** It happened yesterday morning when we got in the car leaving the doctors office. (To hear the story, listen to the message on the church web page www.fbp.org.)