

Thanksgiving – God’s Will

1 Thessalonians 5:18

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Shortest verses:

1. John 11:35 – “Jesus wept.”

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:16 – “Rejoice evermore.”

Remember: there are 2 tracks. There are 2 realms. There is the world and the kingdom.

Matthew 24:37-38

But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark.

Difficult times are here and will get more difficult for many. We need to know how to navigate (these times)...

The Kingdom of God/The Place of the Spirit

2 Corinthians 4:13

We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; 18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-19 (NLT)

Always be joyful. 17 Never stop praying. 18 **Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.** 19 Do not stifle the Holy Spirit.

The fact that God works everything together for good for those who love Him (Rom. 8:28) is the basis for this entreaty.

These three exhortations in verses 16–18 are not just good advice; they are God’s will for every Christian. They are not the totality of God’s will, but they are a clear and important segment of it. God’s will means joy, prayer, and thanksgiving for those who are in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (TPT) And in the midst of everything be always giving thanks, for this is God’s perfect plan for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (ERV) 18 Whatever happens, always be thankful. This is how God wants you to live in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (CEV) Whatever happens, keep thanking God because of Jesus Christ. This is what God wants you to do.

...for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

but here the noun “will” in the Greek is explicitly missing the article because the will of God is wider than ‘giving thanks’. It is part of the big picture: God’s will.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-4

Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. 2 For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. 3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: 4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour.

God’s will is for His people to be holy like He is holy. Sanctification is part of it. Thanksgiving is part of the process of being sanctified.

hagiasmos - purification; i.e. (the state) purity; holiness, sanctification;
purification - the effect of consecration; sanctification of heart and life

Leviticus 11:44-45

For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 45 For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.

1 Peter 1:15-17

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

2 Corinthians 6:14 - 7:1

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

How do we accomplish this? By turning our eyes to Him through thanksgiving.

Psalms 101:1-4

I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O LORD, will I sing.

2 I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me?

I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.

3 I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes:

I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.

4 A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person.

Psalms 119:37-38

Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity;

and quicken thou me in thy way.

38 Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear.

Psalms 119:61-64

The bands of the wicked have robbed me: but I have not forgotten thy law.

62 At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee
because of thy righteous judgments.

63 I am a companion of all them that fear thee,
and of them that keep thy precepts.

64 The earth, O LORD, is full of thy mercy: teach me thy statutes.

Psalms 92:1-2

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD,
and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High:

2 To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning,
and thy faithfulness every night

Psalms 97:12

Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous;
and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

Psalms 106:47-48

Save us, O LORD our God,
and gather us from among the heathen,
to give thanks unto thy holy name,
and to triumph in thy praise.

48 Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting:
and let all the people say, Amen.

Praise ye the LORD.

Psalms 30:11-12 (NLT)

You have turned my mourning into joyful dancing.

You have taken away my clothes of mourning and clothed me with joy,

12 that I might sing praises to you and not be silent.

O LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever!