



Give Thanks in 2021

1 Thessalonians 5:18

- 1. When you look back on 2020, would you say you were a person known more for complaining or for being thankful? _____

- 2. Read **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**. What do these verses say about God’s will for you? _____

a. Each command (rejoice, pray, and give thanks) comes with a qualifier (always, without ceasing, and in all circumstances). Why do you think the qualifiers are important? _____

- 3. What does “giving thanks” look like in your life? _____

- 4. In the sermon, we learned that giving thanks or being grateful is a matter of our heart posture toward God. In what ways is a heart of gratitude and what we think about God connected? _____

- 5. We commonly struggle to take being grateful seriously; however, God’s Word has a lot to say about it. What do the following verses tell us about giving thanks?
 - a. **Colossians 2:7**: _____

 - b. **Psalm 100:4**: _____

 - c. **Psalm 50:14**: _____

 - d. **Ephesians 5:4**: _____

 - e. **Colossians 3:15-17**: _____

- 6. Read **1 Thessalonians 5:18**. Why do you think this command to give thanks in all circumstances is the WILL OF GOD for us? _____

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7. How does understanding the following truths help us to give thanks in ALL circumstances?
- a. Everything we have is a gift from God. _____

 - b. God has done everything for us through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ Jesus. _____

8. Our struggle with thankfulness is difficult when life is hard AND it is also challenging when life is going well. It is our prideful tendency to take credit when life is going well instead of giving thanks to God.
- a. Give some specific examples of how this plays out in your life. _____

9. Giving thanks in the midst of bad times is difficult. It is during these times that our faith in Jesus Christ and His promises have great power. What promises are you thankful for in these times? _____

10. Read through the following list of God's promises to you. Pick one promise and write out how it cultivates gratefulness in you? _____

“Thank you, Father, ...

- That You will never leave us or forsake us. (Hebrews 13:5)
- That You are working all things together for our good. (Romans 8:28)
- That You are faithful and you who began a good work in us will surely bring it to completion. (Philippians 1:6, 1 Thessalonians 5:24)
- That You will never cast us out of your family. (John 6:37)
- That no one can snatch us out of your hand. (John 10:28)
- That nothing can separate us from your love. (Romans 8:38-39)
- That we have nothing to fear because you will help us, you will strengthen us, and you will hold us up with your righteous right hand. (Isaiah 41:10)
- That you have not destined us for wrath, but for final salvation (1 Thessalonians 5:9)
- That you will raise us from the dead and give us new bodies (1 Corinthians 15:52-53)
- That you will wipe away every tear from our eyes, that there will be no more mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore and death shall be no more. (Revelation 21:4)
- That we will see Jesus face to face and will be with Him forever in the fullness of joy. (1 John 3:2, Psalm 16:11)

11. Remember, **because of Jesus, we can give thanks in any circumstance.** What are some specific things you will do to remind yourself each day to be thankful in 2021? _____

12. In what ways can you help others cultivate a grateful heart this year? _____
