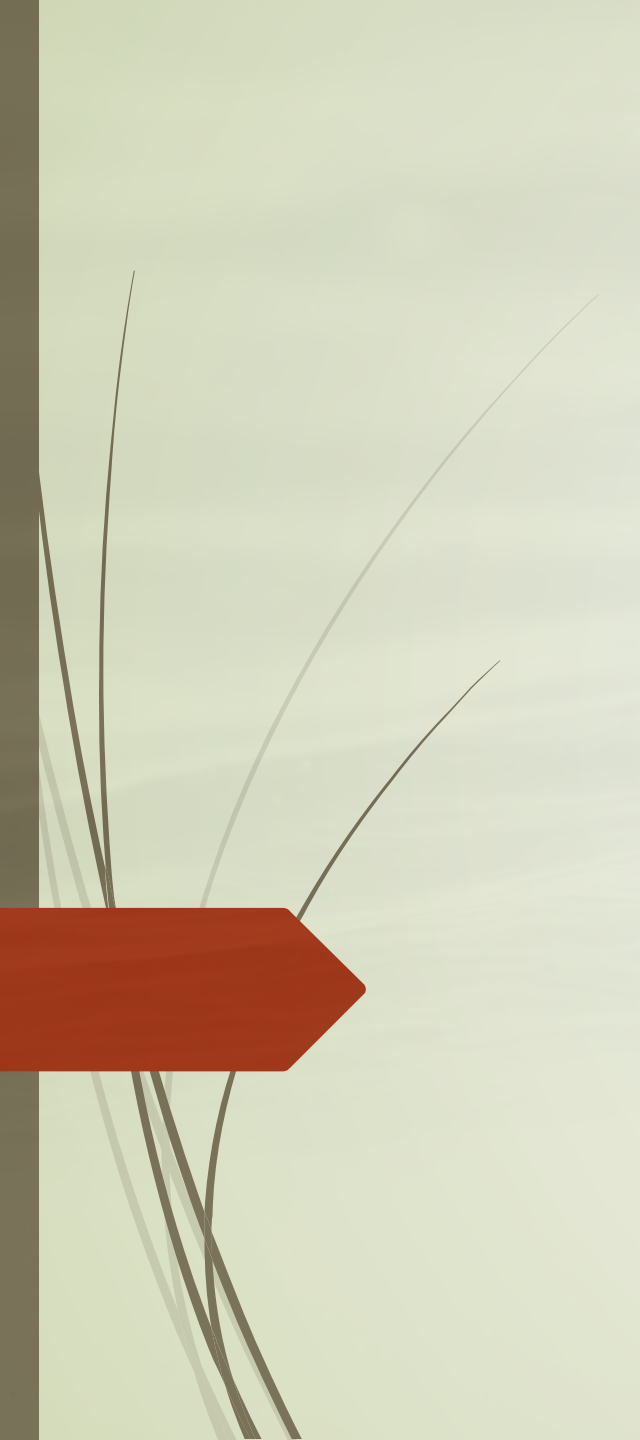




An Attitude of Gratitude

1 Thessalonians 5:18

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

18 GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES,
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.



Introduction

GRATITUDE IS A SPIRITUAL MINDSET

Mouth vs. Mind

Many people associate gratitude with words... But never cultivate a mindset

An attitude of gratitude is a mindset and heart posture that chooses TO FOCUS on the blessings of life RATHER THAN THE BURDENS.

SO, GRATITUDE IS WARFARE ~

I Can Choose To Complain, or I Can Choose To Be Grateful

Many people SPEAK gratitude with their lips... While their minds REMAIN PRISONERS OF NEGATIVITY!

An attitude of gratitude is a habitual choice
TO APPRECIATE GOD'S GOODNESS IN EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE

DEVELOPING AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE means
LEARNING TO SEE GOD'S HAND IN EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE.

An Attitude Of Gratitude Opens The Door To Things That Seem Impossible

Did You Know That Gratitude is possible even in pain....

Experiences Will Allow You Express Gratitude Like Never Before

In This Series, We Will Focus On 5 Key Elements Of An Attitude Of Gratitude

The Bible Has Much To Say About Giving Thanks

Psalms 107:1 (NIV)

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Psalms 100:4 (NIV)

4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

Colossians 3:15 (NLT)

*15 And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts.
For as members of one body, you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.*

Philippians 4:6 (NIV)

*6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

Ephesians 5:19-20 (NIV)

*19 Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.
Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord,
20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything,
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Gratitude Is A Choice

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

18 **GIVE THANKS** in all circumstances,
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

GRATITUDE IS NOT AUTOMATIC; IT'S INTENTIONAL.

Every day, we face a choice: **TO GRUMBLE** or **TO GIVE GOD GLORY**.

Life will **always give you reasons to complain** or **reasons to be thankful**
YOUR CHOICE DETERMINES YOUR ATTITUDE.

Each day presents us with two paths: the road of complaint OR the journey of thankfulness

WHEN YOU CHOOSE GRATITUDE, YOU CHOOSE PEACE.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

6 **Do not be anxious about anything**, but in everything, by prayer and petition,
WITH THANKSGIVING, present your requests to God.

7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

I **Choose** To Be Grateful In The Midst Of It ~ I Am **Grateful** For The Peace I Have
Colossians 3:15 (NIV) ~ **Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts**, as you were called to peace.
AND BE THANKFUL.

Gratitude Is A Choice

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

18 **GIVE THANKS** in all circumstances,

Luke 17:11-19 (NIV)

11 Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee.

12 As he was going into a village, **ten men who had leprosy met him**. They stood at a distance

13 and **called out in a loud voice**, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

14 When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests."

And as they went, **they were cleansed**.

15 **One of them**, when he saw he was healed, **came back**, **praising God in a loud voice**.

16 He threw himself at Jesus' feet and **THANKED HIM**--and **he was a Samaritan**.

17 Jesus asked, "**Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?**"

18 Was no one found to return and give praise to God except **this foreigner?**"

19 Then he said to him, "**Rise and go; your faith has made you well.**"

GRATITUDE WAS HIS CHOICE,

and Jesus rewarded him, "**Your faith has made you whole.**"

God Opens The Door For Greater Blessings,
When We **Choose** To Display An Attitude Of Gratitude

Gratitude Is Not Circumstantial

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

*18 give thanks in all circumstances,
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

*It's easy to give thanks when everything is going right,
but TRUE GRATITUDE IS TESTED when things go wrong.
Even when circumstances don't make sense,
God's character still deserves praise.*

*Gratitude doesn't depend on what's happening around you
it depends on what's happening within you.*

*Gratitude shifts our focus from what's missing to what's present.
Gratitude is not determined by our situation — it's determined by our spiritual decision.
You can't always control your circumstances,
but you can control your response to them.*

Acts 16:25

*PAUL AND SILAS PRAYED AND SANG HYMNS WHILE IN PRISON
Their situation didn't dictate their spirit — their spirit shaped the situation.*

Gratitude is FAITH IN FOCUS — choosing to thank God before you see the breakthrough.

Gratitude Should Be Continuous

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

*18 give thanks in all circumstances,
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

GRATITUDE ISN'T SEASONAL — IT'S SPIRITUAL.

Many people are thankful *in moments*, like Thanksgiving or after blessings arrive,
BUT THE BELIEVER'S GRATITUDE MUST BE CONTINUOUS.

Gratitude must not be occasional, emotional, or situational —
IT MUST BE CONTINUOUS BECAUSE GOD'S GOODNESS IS CONSTANT.

Psalms 100:4-5 (NIV)

*4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.*

*5 For the Lord is good and **HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER;
HIS FAITHFULNESS CONTINUES THROUGH ALL GENERATIONS.***

Our gratitude should **MATCH GOD'S CONSISTENCY.**
His mercy doesn't stop — so our thanksgiving shouldn't either.

*Gratitude is not the response of the blessed — **it's the responsibility of the Believer!!**
It's what we choose to offer even before the blessing comes.*

Gratitude Must Be Cultivated

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

18 give thanks in all circumstances,
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Developing an attitude of gratitude takes practice.

It means **choosing** contentment over complaining, and worship over worry.

It's something **you practice daily** — *NOT JUST SOMETHING YOU FEEL OCCASIONALLY.*

The more you thank God, the more aware you become of His presence.

Gratitude doesn't come automatically — IT MUST BE CULTIVATED.

*Weeds of worry, entitlement, and forgetfulness
can choke out our thankfulness, IF we don't cultivate it daily.*

Human nature *leans toward complaining more than thanking.*

In a culture of comparison and entitlement, gratitude requires discipline.

You don't have to teach a child to say "**mine,**"

BUT YOU MUST TEACH THEM TO SAY "THANK YOU."

Philippians 4:11-12 (NLT)

11 Not that I was ever in need, for **I have learned** how to be content with **whatever I have.**

12 **I know how** to live on almost nothing or with everything. **I have learned the secret** of living in every situation,
whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little.

Gratitude Must Be Cultivated

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for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

Pastor Bryan Tracy Talks About The 4 A's Of Cultivating A Grateful Heart

Awareness ~ Noticing The Good Things In Life

Acknowledgment ~ Recognizing These Things As Valuable

Appreciation ~ Feeling Of Thankfulness

Action ~ Expressing Your Gratitude In Word or Deed

Gratitude Replaces Complaining

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*18 give thanks in all circumstances,
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

The difference between *gratitude* and *grumbling* **IS FOCUS**.
When you *shift your focus* from problems to promises,
GRATITUDE WILL FOLLOW NATURALLY.

A THANKFUL HEART is *evidence of spiritual growth*.
IMMATURE FAITH complains about *what it lacks*;
MATURE FAITH thanks God *for what it has*.

In John 6 ~ The Immature Disciples said,
“This Is Not Enough” ~ “We Don’t Have Enough Money”
John 6:11 (NIV)

*11 Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks,
and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted....*

When Jesus gave thanks for the loaves and fish, then the miracle of multiplication happened
GRATITUDE UNLOCKS GOD’S POWER.



Remember This...

An Attitude of Gratitude includes ...

Gratitude Is A Choice

Gratitude Is Not Circumstantial

Gratitude Should Be Continuous

Gratitude Must Be Cultivated

Gratitude Replaces Complaining

