

"The Miracle of Giving Thanks"

November 19, 2023

"Thanksgiving is good but thanks-living is better."

-Matthew Henry

3 Things we must do from I Thessalonians 5:16-18

1. _____ always
2. _____ continually
3. _____ in all _____

I Thessalonians 5:18 give thanks: "_____ everything"

Ephesians 5:20: give thanks: "_____ everything"

This means:

God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. I John 1:5b

What does it mean to "always give thanks":

First, _____ often in the midst of your busy lives to thank God for your blessings.

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

James 1:17

Second, develop a _____, living each moment in the _____ of the blessings you have from God.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

All adversity is not bad.

God does not allow adversity to _____ us but to _____ us.

Examples of how to give thanks in adversity:

Paul in 2 Corinthians 11:24-28, Acts 16:22-26

Joseph in Genesis 37-50

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives" Genesis 50:20

What does a heart of gratitude do?

1. It changes your _____.

The Lord says, "My _____ is _____ for you."

2 Corinthians 12:8-10

"...offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." Hebrews 13:15

Give thanks even when you don't _____.

2. It is the first step to your _____ .
John 6:1-24

_____ + _____ = _____

Am I focused on my _____ or God's _____ ?

Jesus prayed in Matthew 26:39, "May this cup pass from me. Yet, not my will, but yours be done."