

@STPAULPEORIA



OCTOBER - DECEMBER

Week 5:

Gratitude Over Greed

1 Thessalonians 5:16 -18

Quarter 4 : Live Simple

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BIG IDEA:

Gratitude shifts our focus from what we lack to what we have, helping us resist greed and embrace contentment in God's provision.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16–18 (CSB)

Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

**Consumerism requires us to be unsatisfied and spend,
as it is a worldview.**

**“We are what we love — and our loves are shaped by the
liturgies of culture.”**

• **JAMES K.A. SMITH**

**Gratitude is a habit cultivated in partnership
with joy and prayer.**

***“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give
thanks...” (vv. 16–18a)***

**The attitude of gratitude is cultivated through
two daily decisions:**

- (1) choosing joy and**
- (2) staying connected to God**

**“God’s goodness will define my day more than my
circumstances.”**

**“The root of Christian joy is not the absence of suffering,
but the presence of God.”**

TIM KELLER

**Live with a steady awareness that God is near, that
grace is available, that help is here.**

**“Prayer is simply the medium through which we
experience and connect to God.”**

**— John Mark Comer, *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry*
(2019)**

Joy turns your eyes toward who God is.

Prayer keeps our hearts connected to the God who is.

**We can't live a life of thankfulness if we aren't joyful,
and we can't stay joyful if we aren't prayerful.**

GRATITUDE BELONGS IN EVERY SEASON

“...in all circumstances...” (v.18b)

**Gratitude is how faith breathes when life feels
suffocating.**

**I can't change my circumstances, but I can always
choose my response.**

GRATITUDE IS NOT OPTIONAL

“...for this is the will of God...” (v.18c)

**Gratitude centers us in the truth that God is sovereign,
and I am secure.**

Gratitude Is Rooted in a Relationship with Jesus

“...in Christ Jesus.” (v.18d)

**Gratitude is about being in Christ,
not about being positive.**

You are in Christ, and because of that, you live from abundance, not scarcity. You're you're already loved, already chosen, already supplied.

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