

Always Giving Thanks!
1 Thessalonian 5:18

As we come to Thanksgiving this week, I want you to remember a name.

Squanto

He was a Native American living in North America.

His tribe was called the Patuxets (paw-TUX-et)

As a young boy in 1605, he was captured by English merchants and taken to England.

- ***He was taught English***
- ***To help the men from England better understand the Indians who lived in the North East.***
- ***He lived in England for NINE years***
- ***1614 Squanto returned to his family***

He had only been home a few months when Captain Thomas Hunt lured Squanto and NINETEEN other Patuxet young men onto his ship.

They were put in chains and taken to Spain to be sold as slaves.

Most of them were sold and shipped to North Africa, but Squanto was bought and rescued by some local monks.

There Squanto was fed and nourished back to health and given his freedom.

While there he was introduced to Jesus and began reading the Bible.

Squanto left Spain and returned to England.

In 1619 he returned to his home tribe, the Patuxets.

However, when he returned they were all dead

- ***A deadly plague killed all his family***

For weeks Squanto wandered in the woods.

He was taken in by a neighboring Indian tribe.

Taught the Pilgrims how to plant corn, fish, and trap beaver.

1622 on Squanto's death bed, William Bradford was by his side.

"Pray for me, Governor, that I might go to the Englishmen's God in heaven."

ONE THING

Always giving thanks DECLARES our trust in God's GOODNESS and DISPLAYS our reliance on God's GRACE.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (ESV) — Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (ESV) — Give thanks in all circumstances...

This is a command!

The Lord requires us to “...give thanks in all circumstances...”

1. The POWER for Always Giving Thanks

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (ESV) — Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

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It is IMPOSSIBLE to give thanks in all circumstances in our own strength!

Philippians 4:13 (ESV) — I can do all things through him [Christ] who strengthens me.

John 15:5 (ESV) — I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

It is the Holy Spirit IN you Who produces thanks THROUGH you!!!

In a parallel passage listen to what the Apostle Paul says...

Ephesians 5:18, 20 (ESV) — And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ...

giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

➤ **God's REQUIREMENTS assure us of God's EMPOWERMENTS**

The Lord will never ask you to do something that He will not also empower you to accomplish.

We can only give thanks in all circumstances through the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit.

Always giving thanks declares our trust in God's goodness and displays our reliance on God's grace.

1. The POWER for Always Giving Thanks

2. The PERSPECTIVE for Always Giving Thanks

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (ESV) — Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

No circumstance is too big to give thanks.

I know, many of us feel our circumstances are the exception clauses.

We read the Bible looking for the “fine print” expressing the exception clauses.

But we are told to give thanks in ALL circumstances

Let's again read what Ephesians 5:20 says...

Ephesians 5:20 (ESV) — Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

So, like me, you may be saying, “Now wait a minute! God expects me to give thanks FOR bad things that come in my life?”

Colossians 3:17 (ESV) — And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

That can only be done through a change of perspective.

➤ **Every circumstance can either be an OBSTACLE or an OPPORTUNITY to give thanks**

How do I turn a seeming OBSTACLE into an OPPORTUNITY?

Philippians 4:6–7 (ESV) — Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

But we are told to give thanks in ALL circumstances

That can only be done through a change of perspective.

Always giving thanks declares our trust in God's goodness and displays our reliance on God's grace.

1. The POWER for Always Giving Thanks

2. The PERSPECTIVE for Always Giving Thanks

3. The PURPOSE for Always Giving Thanks

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (ESV) — Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

God is either in charge over all or not at all!

1 Thessalonians 4:3a (ESV) — For this is the will of God, your sanctification...

➤ **Every circumstance carries with it both PROBLEMS and POSSIBILITIES which God lovingly ALLOWS for our PURITY.**

Romans 8:28 (ESV) — And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

John 10:27–30 (ESV) — My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.”

**Always Giving Thanks
1 Thessalonian 5:18**

Always giving thanks _____ our trust in God's _____
_____ and _____ our reliance on God's
_____.

1. The _____ for Always Giving Thanks

➤ God's _____ assure us of God's
_____.

2. The _____ for Always Giving Thanks

➤ Every circumstance can either be an _____ or an
_____ to give thanks.

3. The _____ for Always Giving Thanks

➤ Every circumstance carries with it both _____ and
_____ which God lovingly _____ for
our _____.