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5 MINUTE TESTIMONY OF HOW GOD IS LEADING ME IN THE MULTI-SITE ADOPTION

Let's Pray...

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READ Fictional Story-Dialogue, "Give Thanks" by Jon Bloom

GIVE THANKS...A good, loving, and caring exhortation from our Heavenly Father...

TR: DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY TIMES, in both the NT and OT, the people of God are called to give thanks?

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"I will give thanks to the Lord..." (Psalm 7:17; 9:1; 30:12)

"Give thanks to the Lord..." (Psalm 105:1; 106:1; 107:1; 118:1)

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving..." (Psalm 140:13)

"Surely the righteous shall give thanks to your name..." (140:13)

READ QUOTATIONS

TR: AND THEN IN THE NT...

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"I give thanks to my God always for you..." (1 Cor. 1:4)

"I do not cease to give thanks for you..." (Eph. 1:16)

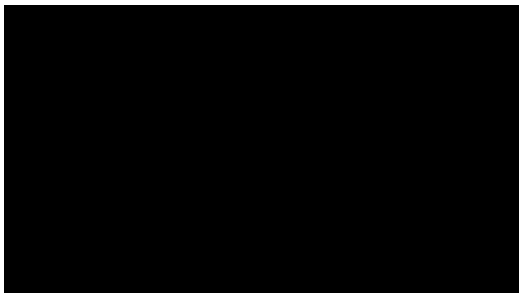
"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you..." (Phil. 1:3)

"We ought always to give thanks to God..."
(2 Thess. 1:3)

"Give thanks in all circumstances..." (1 Thess. 5:18)

READ QUOTATIONS

TR: BUT AREN'T THERE CIRCUMSTANCES...???



...THAT ARE JUST too hard, too overwhelming, too unknown, too unfinished, ...frankly, just too scary to give thanks...at least not yet?

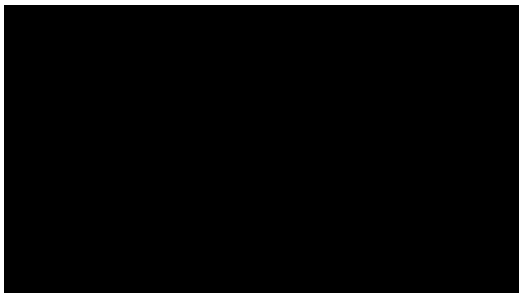
DON'T WE FIRST NEED direction, relief, the desires of our heart met, resolution, healing, provision...before we can give thanks?

AND GOD HAS MADE IT KNOWN...rejoice, pray, give thanks ALWAYS and in ALL circumstances, for this is the will of God for you.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT FOR ME, giving thanks can seem so trite, so small, so polly-anna ish, so silly in light of the Real World...in light of real pain, raw anguish, overwhelming fear, oppression, heartache and suffering...(consider specific examples)

BUT THEN I RECOGNIZE the Raw Reality of Israel's experiences, and Paul's, and Jesus's, and the church's and REMEMBER the will and prescription of God is still the same...GIVE THANKS

TR: BUT HOW? WHAT'S AT THE CORE? WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT THANKLESSNESS ANYWAY?



I BELIEVE THAT THANKLESSNESS IS more than just not saying “Thank you”

THERE IS SOMETHING DEEPER THAT OUGHT TO DISGUST US when we get a good look beneath, at the heart level.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE A FELT WEIGHT to thanklessness, an emotional drain, a spiritual dullness and poverty, a hindrance to healthy relationships and living fully the lives God desires for us to live in Christ.

I DON'T ALWAYS READILY RECOGNIZE it in myself, but I can sense it in others...it either looks like arrogance+selfishness or hopeless+despairing.

SO I WANT TO GET TO THE CORE of thanklessness and thankfulness...

FOR THOSE of us WHO ARE IN CHRIST, it ought never be our circumstances that drive our gratitude or ingratitude.

TR: SO LET'S TAKE OUT OUR BIBLES...

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IF YOU DON'T HAVE A BIBLE...

THERE ARE ALSO SOME FILL-IN-THE-BLANK SERMON NOTES that you can use to follow along. They are also available on our new app that you can download in the app store or google play...Trinity Fellowship EFC

SO, TURN WITH ME TO ROMANS 1, we're going to look first at the Weight of and the horror beneath Thanklessness...

READ ROMANS 1

TR: PAUL HAS PAINTED A TRUE PICTURE HERE of the reality of sin (rebellion against God), and the terrible state that ALL of humanity is in, inherently and willfully. AND THERE ARE THREE KEY PIECES TO WHAT PAUL LAYS OUT...

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REVIEW THE THREE COMPONENTS...

TR: ULTIMATELY...

**THE WEIGHT OF AND HORROR BENEATH
THANKLESSNESS**

*Ultimately, THANKLESSNESS is a
symptom of a **PROUD** heart that **IGNORES**
and **FORGETS** God.*

THANKLESSNESS IS A SYMPTOM OF A PROUD HEART THAT IGNORES AND FORGETS GOD, his goodness, his grace, his power, his sovereignty...

INSTEAD OF EYES FIXED ON GOD, it's eyes fixed on self and one's problems...AND MISSING GOD...

IT CAN ALSO BE eyes fixed on self and one's successes...BEING THANKFUL OUTWARDLY for wealth, health, stuff, security, BUT WITH A THANKLESS HEART, because it's still missing God...exchanging the Creator for the creature, truth of God for lies and idols...

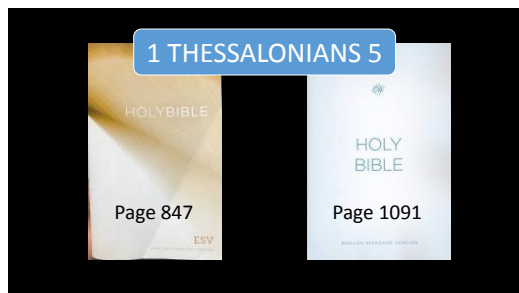
AND IT OUGHT TO HORRIFY US in the sense that it reflects the very heart of Satan himself, the father of lies, the twister of Truth, the embodiment of selfish pride.

SO WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO SHAKE OUR THANKLESSNESS, whether it's in good or bad circumstances, and replace it with thanksgiving?

SIMPLY PUT, YOU'VE GOT TO GET THE GOSPEL...

TR: TURN WITH ME TO 1 THESSALONIANS 5...

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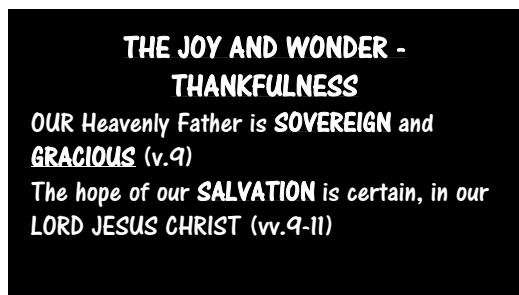


I WANT TO READ MORE OF THE CONTEXT THAT SURROUNDS “GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES” ...

READ 1 THESSALONIANS 5...

TR: PAUL, WHO PAINTED SUCH A DIRE STATE OF REALITY BACK IN ROM. 1, NOW PAINTS A REAL PICTURE OF HOPE AND JOY AND ENCOURAGEMENT that gives some context for the command to GIVE THANKS...AND THERE ARE A FEW KEY PIECES IN THIS THAT I WANT TO HIGHLIGHT FOR YOU...

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REVIEW KEY PIECES...

AS ONE AUTHOR WROTE, “LET FUTURE JOY FUEL YOUR THANKFUL ENDURANCE.”

PAUL SAYS IN CORINTHIANS 4:16-18, “¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

TR: THEREFORE...

**THE JOY AND WONDER -
THANKFULNESS**

*Therefore, REJOICE, PRAY, and GIVE THANKS
ALWAYS and IN (not for) ALL
CIRCUMSTANCES (vv.16-18)*

REVIEW KEY EXHORTATION...

REJOICE always...not denying pain, hurt, or suffering, BUT having a deep inward sense of peace and joy, knowing that nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus. If you're in Christ, you're in His grip. For the Psalmist says, "The Lord is my helper. I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

WE DO NOT REJOICE FOR THE CIRCUMSTANCES ALWAYS, for some are evil and do not rejoice for evil. But we still ought to rejoice in spite of evil, as we fix our eyes on what is unseen, on what is to come, on the person of Jesus Christ.

PRAY without ceasing, keeping the conversation going with God, keeping open lines of communication throughout the day in every circumstance. It's all about staying relationally connected, which includes listening as well as talking.

AND THEN OF COURSE, GIVE THANKS...Jesus said to His disciples at one point when they were rejoicing that they had cast out demons...he said to not rejoice in that, but to rejoice that their names were written in heaven.

WE TOO OUGHT TO REJOICE that we have been rescued from wrath, because Jesus stepped in to take the just wrath of God against sin for us, and therefore whether we die or live in Christ, we will be with Him forever!

TR: AND LET US NOT FORGET THE HOLY SPIRIT IN ALL THIS...

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**THE JOY AND WONDER -
THANKFULNESS**

The HOLY SPIRIT is in us, with us, and He will see us through (vv. 19, 23-24)

The Holy Spirit is in us (sanctifying us), is with us (empowering us to live out the will of God), and He will see us through as we continue to surrender ourselves to Him (because He is faithful)...

TR: BUT SOME MAY STILL SAY, WHAT ABOUT THE REALLY PAINFFUL CIRCUMSTANCES?...

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**THE JOY AND WONDER -
THANKFULNESS**

*REMEMBER that, in Christ, our suffering is always **REDEMPITIVE** and never **RANDOM** (Romans 8:28-29)*

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good,^[a] for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

SUFFERING, IN CHRIST, HAS A PURPOSE in your life...and it's not to punish you for your sin, because the punishment was paid out in full upon God himself in Christ. However, if you are not in Christ, the Bible is clear that the just wrath of God remains on you. So, for those who have put their complete faith and trust in Jesus as their Lord and Savior, the demands of justice have been met.

AND THE SUFFERING IS NOT RANDOM...God is sovereign over it and able to work it for GOOD and for HIS GLORY.

TR: I THINK A BEAUTIFUL ILLUSTRATION OF THIS IS KINTSUGI...



KINTSUGI is an ancient Japanese practice of repairing broken pottery with seams of gold. THE WORD MEANS “GOLDEN JOINERY”

THE BELIEF IS THAT THE POTTERY, IN THE END, IS “MORE BEAUTIFUL FOR BEING BROKEN”

WE ALL ARE LIKE POTTERY THAT HAS BEEN BROKEN, broken bodies, broken relationships, broken dreams, broken lives, broken hopes...

AND YET WE HAVE A SOVEREIGN, GOOD, AND GRACIOUS GREAT PHYSICIAN who works everything, every broken thing for GOOD and for HIS GLORY...

HE MENDS and REPAIRS, making us more Christ-Like in the end...

EVERY GOLD SEAM is a GOD-GLORIFYING, POWERFUL TESTIMONY of His GOODNESS AND GREATNESS, NOT a CRACK to be ashamed of and hidden...

AT THE END OF THE BIBLE in REVELATION 21, JESUS SAYS, “BEHOLD, I AM MAKING ALL THINGS NEW.” And indeed He has, and is, and will in all fullness when He returns.

TR: AND SO WON'T YOU LAY ASIDE THANKLESSNESS TODAY AND TAKE UP THANKSGIVING?

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I Want to end with these words by Jon Bloom...

READ Conclusion by Jon Bloom

Would you pray with me?