

Thankful in every situation

I Thessalonians 5:16

Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray constantly, ¹⁸ give thanks in everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

I. Be thankful. Period!

¹⁸ give thanks in everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

II. We can be thankful in all situations because we know this is what the Father wants (God's will).

¹⁸ give thanks in everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

--If it's his will then we know He is pleased with us when we obey

Luke 17: ¹⁷ Then Jesus said, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? ¹⁸ Didn't any return to give glory to God except this foreigner?"

Hebrews 13:15 Therefore, through him let us continually offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Don't neglect to do what is good and to share, for God is pleased with such sacrifices.

--If it's his will then we know He is going to give us the strength to choose thankfulness.

Phil 4:19 And my God will supply all your needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has come upon you except what is common to humanity. But God is faithful; he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to bear it.

III. We can be thankful in all situations because our identity is a stake

--If we are ungrateful, we are identifying as unsaved/unbelieving people

“An unthankful person is a monster in nature, a paradox in Christianity.” Thomas Watson

Rom 1: ²¹ For though they knew God, they did not glorify him as God or show gratitude. Instead, their thinking became worthless, and their senseless hearts were darkened.

--Jesus was thankful, therefore as followers we ought to be as well

John 11:41 So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you heard me.

II Tim 3:2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, proud, demeaning, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

Col 2:6 So then, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in him,

IV. We can be thankful in all situations because of the byproducts of thankfulness

Phil 4:6 ⁶ Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

V. We can be thankful in all situations because God is ultimately in control

Romans 8:-²⁸ We know that all things work together^u for the good^u of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; and those he called, he also justified; and those he justified, he also glorified.

³¹ What, then, are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He did not even spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. How will he not also with him grant us everything?

VI. Practical causes of ingratitude by John MacArthur

1. Doubt
2. Selfishness
3. Worldliness
4. Critical spirit
5. Impatience
6. Rebellion

Close:

One day is not long enough to thank God for all that He's given you. His blessings come daily. –
Adrian Rogers