



# ShalomAZ Ministries

*In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption*

**"Yet Will I Praise Him: In EVERYTHING Give Thanks"**

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## **Devotion and Discussion Questions**

**Key Passages:** 1 Thess. 5:16-18; Phil. 1:12-26; Acts 16:22-24; Acts 21-28; Gen. 45:7-8; 50:20; Hab. 3:17-19; Luke 6:27-28; Job. 13:15

Gratitude is not seasonal—it is supernatural. Scripture calls us to *"Rejoice always, pray constantly, in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Messiah Yeshua"* (1 Thess. 5:16–18). This command doesn't say to give thanks *for* everything but *in* everything. Gratitude is not about ignoring pain or pretending everything is fine; it's about fixing our eyes on the Lord rather than our circumstance. When our perspective is anchored in God's goodness and His unchanging mercy, we find reason to bless His Name even in hardship. As the Psalmist wrote, *"I will bless Adonai at all times; His praise is continually in my mouth"* (Psalm 34:2 TLV).

Whether we are standing in joy or walking through sorrow, we echo the ancient refrain, *"Hodu L'Adonai ki tov, ki l'olam chasdo"*—*Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His mercy endures forever!* (Ps 118:1). Our thanksgiving doesn't depend on comfort or clarity but on covenant. The one who knows the Lord's faithfulness can say with Habakkuk, *"Though the fig tree does not blossom... yet will I triumph in Adonai"* (Hab 3:17–18). Even in the absence of visible blessing, we worship because His mercy has not failed.

### **1. SEE YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES THROUGH HEAVEN'S EYES (Phil 1:12-14)**

Paul teaches us that thanksgiving begins with perspective. Sitting in a Roman prison, chained to guards, and falsely accused, he writes, *"What has happened to me has **actually** resulted in the advancement of the Good News."* The word "actually" implies the opposite of what anyone would expect. What seemed like setback became divine strategy. Like Joseph, who told his brothers, *"You meant evil against me, but God planned it for good"* (Genesis 50:20), Paul saw every trial as an opportunity for the Gospel to go further and deeper.

To see your situation through Heaven's eyes means trusting that nothing is wasted. Even injustice, delays, and pain can serve God's redemptive purposes. Paul's chains became divine appointments—the Praetorian guards, bound to him in shifts, became his congregation. Instead of self-pity, Paul chose praise. Instead of despair, he chose to testify. Gratitude grew in the soil of suffering, producing fruit for the Kingdom. When we fix our eyes on Yeshua instead of our prison walls, we discover that what the enemy intended for harm, God is using for His glory. Today, ask the Lord to help you see your current situation through His perspective. What if this season—painful though it may be—is not punishment, but placement for a greater purpose?

### **2. SEE YOUR ENEMIES THROUGH YESHUA'S HEART (Phil. 1:15-18)**

Paul's gratitude also extended toward people who opposed him. Some preached Messiah with wrong motives—out of envy and rivalry—hoping to make his suffering worse. Yet Paul responded with disarming grace: *"What does it matter? Only that in every way... Messiah is being proclaimed—and in this I rejoice!"* (Phil 1:18). His focus wasn't on defending his reputation but on advancing the Kingdom. Gratitude took root when he let go of offense.

Seeing people through Yeshua's heart changes everything. Instead of bitterness, we find compassion. Instead of defensiveness, we find peace. Paul's response mirrored Yeshua's words: *"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for the ones who mistreat you"* (Luke 6:27–28). When we pray for those who hurt us, our hearts begin

to heal. Paul's joy was not dependent on others' approval but on Messiah's mission. Gratitude flourishes when we choose to trust God's justice over our own need for vindication.

Who are the people you've struggled to bless or forgive? Pray for them today—by name—and ask God to give you His heart toward them. True thanksgiving can only grow in a heart free from resentment.

### **3. SEE YOUR LIFE THROUGH ETERNITY'S PROMISE (Phil. 1:19-26)**

Paul's ultimate gratitude came from viewing his life through eternity's promise. Facing possible execution, he declared, *"For to me, to live is Messiah and to die is gain."* (Phil 1:21). From prison, he saw beyond survival—his eyes were fixed on eternal reward. Whether he lived or died, he knew he could not lose. If he lived, he would continue serving Messiah. If he died, he would be with Him in glory. Either way, his heart was secure in Yeshua.

When we view life and death through eternity's lens, fear loses its power. The Psalmist said, *"Adonai is for me—I will not fear! What can man do to me?"* (Ps 118:6). Gratitude grows when we remember that our lives are not random—they are redeemed. Every breath is a gift and every hardship a teacher. When we trust God with the outcome, peace takes the place of panic, and joy flows from the confidence that He is writing our story with eternal purpose.

Where are you still holding onto control? Today, and every day, release your fears to God. Whisper, *"To live is Messiah, to die is gain."* Let gratitude reshape your view of life and eternity.

### **CONCLUSION**

In everything, give thanks. When circumstances are crushing, when people misunderstand you, and when life feels uncertain—*Give Thanks! Praise Him.* Paul learned that gratitude is not circumstantial—it's relational. It's the language of trust. God is forming something within you through the weight you carry, shaping your life to look more like Yeshua. When you bless God in the storm, you declare that He is greater than the storm. Like Habakkuk, you can say, *"Though the fig tree does not blossom... yet will I rejoice in the God of my salvation"* (Hab 3:17-18). *Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheynu Melekh HaOlam*—Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe... even here, even now.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What's the difference between giving thanks *for* everything & giving thanks *in* everything?
2. How did Paul's imprisonment actually advance the Good News? How might your own hardship be doing the same?
3. Why is it difficult to rejoice when others act with wrong motives? What does Paul's example teach us about trust?
4. How does viewing your life through eternity's promise change your response to fear or uncertainty?
5. What are practical ways you can cultivate gratitude daily, even in painful seasons?

### **CLOSING PRAYER:**

**Abba, thank You that Your goodness does not depend on my circumstances.** Teach me to see life through Heaven's eyes, to respond to people through Yeshua's heart, and to live each day in the light of eternity's promise. When I am tempted to complain, remind me to bless Your Name. When I face injustice, teach me to trust Your plan. When fear rises, fill me with confidence that I cannot lose, for to live is Messiah and to die is gain. May my heart continually echo, *Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheynu Melekh HaOlam*—*Blessed are You, Lord my God, King of the Universe.* In Yeshua's Name, amen.