

EVERYDAY IS THANKSGIVING PART 3: ONE THING

Today is the last Sunday of November. We just finished Thanksgiving, but we haven't finished "thanksgiving". We are tearing scripture apart to become people of thanksgiving – where every day is thanksgiving. This teaching is focused on giving thanks in all circumstances as being the will of God.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

How important is the will of God? Here's a couple of scriptures to answer that question:

1 John 2:15-17 (NIV)
Matthew 7:21 (NIV)

Doing the will of God is the definition of success.

According to Jesus, moving in the gifts of the Spirit is not enough. Being in church is not enough. We must do the will of God. Giving thanks in all circumstances is the will of God for us. It is not denying reality. It is not some religious mantra. It is professing faith in the hope and love that God has for us. It is also spiritual warfare. Let's look at what happens when we praise:

Psalm 22:3 (BEREAN STANDARD BIBLE)
Psalm 8:2 (NIV)
Psalm 149:3-9 (NIV)

Thanks/praise releases God's lordship. Thanks/praise silences the voice of the enemy. Thanks/praise binds the enemy and releases judgment upon him. Aren't all these the will of God? None of these are denying pain – they are statements of faith which glorify the Lord and comfort His child. Remember the pipeline of faith?

Romans 5:3-5 (NIV)

How important is hope?

1 Corinthians 13:13 (NIV)

The 3 great motivations of the kingdom. We know what love is. What is the difference between faith and hope?

Faith: trust

Hope: anticipation

Suffering can develop anticipation for evil or bad things. It can steal the excitement from your life. The scripture assures us that, if we trust God and depend upon His love, our excitement for life and expectation of His victory will not be destroyed by the pain of our circumstances. The “whole” is not destroyed by a “part” – no matter how important – God’s good grace releases hope which is an anchor for my soul. No matter how devastating the circumstance, God is present “in” it; He is using it to conform you – not to destroy you; and His glory will be revealed.

Today’s Scriptures:

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