

Sunday, November 12, 2023
EVERY DAY IS THANKSGIVING
PART 1: DIVINE CIRCUMSTANCE

We have entered a season of thanksgiving – yet the Bible tells us that every day is thanksgiving of the believer. Beginning today, we refine the art of “thanksgiving”.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

We are going to “tear” this scripture apart because its fulfillment is the will of God for us. First, it tells us that we are to give thanks in all circumstances. In a way, this tells us that all circumstances are “divine circumstances”. Not all circumstances are comfortable or easy. Many are painful and trying. We are to give thanks “in all circumstances”. Let’s define “all”.

pás ("each, every") means "all" in the sense of "each (every) part that applies." The emphasis of the total picture then is on "one piece at a time." (*ananeóō*) then focuses on the *part(s)* making up the whole – viewing the whole *in terms of the individual parts*.

The word used tells us that every part – bad or good – is part of a whole.

Romans 8:28-31 (NIV)

What does this tell us?

1. God is working “in” every circumstance.

This scripture is not saying that all circumstances are of divine origin, but all circumstances do have divine power present “IN” them. If God were not present in every circumstance, then He would have effectively “abandoned” His child.

“Never not you will I leave nor never not you will I forsake.” /// Hebrews 13:5

That is the way it reads in the original language. There is a double negative used to assure you that God will never leave you. Remember the old saying: What the devil meant for bad – God is turning around to use for

good. God's power is at work "in" the circumstance to recreate its destiny. While we grieve difficult circumstances, we thank God for the divine power at work within them.

2. The circumstance is not destroying me but conforming me.

Difficult circumstances can knock us to our knees. It is from our knees that we rise more like Jesus. Consider these words:

Philippians 3:10-11 (NIV)

Resurrection power is dispensed after "death". Circumstances can be a bringer of death. But God brings resurrection. In every circumstance, be on the lookout for your resurrection into the image of Christ.

3. The result of every circumstance is God's glory.

We live within the pipeline of glory.

Romans 5:3-5 (NIV)

If you are in a pipeline, you will remain within that pipeline – which culminates in the end result. Repeat this: my circumstance is leading me to hope. Don't give up till it appears. When it appears, you will revel in God's glorification through you.

Today's Scriptures:

- 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)
- Romans 8:28-31 (NIV)
- Hebrews 13:5
- Philippians 3:10-11 (NIV)
- Romans 5:3-5 (NIV)