**MAINTAINING AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE**

# NW CHURCH SUNDAY NOV. 16, 2014

**Play Song…Thank You Lord**

# Bible Scripture….1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 King James Version (KJV)

***11Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.12And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;13And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.14Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.15See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.16Rejoice evermore.17Pray without ceasing.18In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.***

***Prayer….***

**INTRODUCTION**

**Thanksgiving is just around the corner, there turkey or ham, sweet candied potatoes, corn bread, stuffing, cranberries sauce, pumpkin pie, etc. etc.and it is a shame that people only remember God because of the food that is on the table at this time!!!**

**Thanksgiving should more than just having people come over like family and friends to associate with one another and have a great time and pig-out!!!**

Beloved as Christians we should all know what Is God’s will for us!!!

There are two specific themes that God wants us to recognize while serving him….but the third is most important!!

1. First that we **rejoice always..What a wonderful privilege to be able to rejoice even though sometimes things are not exactly where you would want them to be.**

1. Secondly that we **pray without ceasing.. What a glorious time to be able to have A little talk with Jesus all the time!!!**

2. As we read in our opening text ([**1Th 5:16-18**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Th%205.16-18)), we learn that it is very important that we never forget that it is also God’s will...

1. **That we give thanks in everything** - [**1Th 5:18**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Th%205.18)

 b. "give thanks in all circumstances" good time or bad times

 c. "be thankful in all SITUATIONS….hardships calamity, sickness etc.

**In other words we must always maintain a high level of an….**

# “ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE”

[Not only are we to be thankful **in** everything, but **for** everything

([**Ep 5:20**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%205.20))! 20Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

In order for us to understand why this is God's will for us, let's consider the following...]

**I. THE NEED TO GIVE THANKS**

1. **INGRATITUDE DISPLEASES GOD...**

 1. It is included among other sins that would be prevalent in

 "perilous times" –

[**2Ti 3:1-5**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2Ti%203.1-5)**…**This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.2For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, **unthankful,** unholy,3Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,4Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;5Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

 2. The wrath of God will be revealed against those who are

 unthankful –

[**Ro 1:18-21**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%201.18-21)**…**18For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;19Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.20For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:**21Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.**

 **B. WE ARE TO HAVE an “ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE”...**

 1. Thankful for what the Father has done for us –

[**Colossians 1:12-14**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Col%201.12-14)**…**12Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:13Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:14In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

[**Col 2:7**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Col%202.7)**…**7Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with **thanksgiving.**

 3. thankfulness is a part of the "garment" we are to put on –

[**Col 3:12-15**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Col%203.12-15)**..****12Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;13Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.14And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. 15And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.**

 4. Being thankful is a complement to our prayers –

[**Col 4:2**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Col%204.2)**;** 2Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

[**1Ti 2:1**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Ti%202.1)I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, **and giving of thanks**, be made for all men;

1. **THANKFULNESS IS A KEY REMEDY...**
2. To overcoming anxiety –

[**Php 4:6**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Php%204.6)**….**Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with **thanksgiving** let your requests be made known unto God.

 2. To obtaining the peace of God which surpasses understanding

[**Php 4:6-7**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Php%204.6-7)**…**7And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

 a. When we give thanks in everything, we will pray without

 ceasing!

 b. When we pray without ceasing, we will rejoice always!

[If we desire to have the peace which passes understanding, that joy

which is inexpressible found in ([**1Pe 1:8**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Pe%201.8)8Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:), then we need to develop the,

**“ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE”**

being thankful in everything!

Let me share some thoughts on...]

**II. HOW TO BE THANKFUL IN EVERYTHING**

1. **REMEMBER THAT ALL THINGS WORK FOR GOOD...**

 1. If we love God and have responded to His call –

[**Ro 8:28**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%208.28)**…**28And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

1. Loving God presumes obedience to His will –

[**1Jn 5:3**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Jn%205.3)**…**3For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

1. Responding to His call presumes obeying the gospel - cf.

[**2Th 2:13-14**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2Th%202.13-14)**…**13But we are bound to **give thanks alway** to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:14Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. We can therefore glory in tribulation –

[**Ro 5:3-5**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%205.3-5)**…**3And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;4And patience, experience; and experience, hope:5And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

 a. Knowing that it produces character

 b. Which in turn produces hope

 3. We can therefore rejoice in persecution –

[**Mt 5:10-12**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%205.10-12)**…**10Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.11Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.12Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

 a. Knowing that the kingdom of heaven is ours

 b. Knowing that our reward in heaven will be great

4. We can therefore rejoice in trials –

[**Jm 1:2-3**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Jm%201.2-3)**…**2My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;3Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

 a. Knowing that trials produces patience

 b. Knowing that patience produces perfection and completeness

 (maturity)

1. **Beloved we are to EXPRESS THANKS IN EVERY PRAYER...**

 1. We are to include thanksgiving with our prayer requests –

[**Philp 4:6**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Php%204.6)**…….**Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication **with thanksgiving** let your requests be made known unto God.

1. **\*\*\*\*\*Every time you pray for something, first thank God for something\*\*\*\*\***

 b. **Johnson Oatman, Jr.**, 1856-1922 wrote this wonderful hymn…

 "Count your many blessings, name them one by one,

 And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done."

 -

 2. Even when we are facing hard times - e.g.,

[**Dan 6:10-11**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Dan%206.10-11)**…**10Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.11Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

 a. Daniel made the giving of thanks part of his daily prayers

 b. Even when facing life-threatening crisis, he gave thanks as

 always

Daniel knew how to maintain an **“ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE”**

**CONCLUSION**

1. **William Hendriksen** has beautifully expressed the importance of giving

 thanks:

 **When a person prays without giving thanks, he has clipped**

 **the wings of prayer, so that it cannot rise.**

2. Do you want...

 a. The full benefit of prayer in your life?

 b. The ability to rejoice always, in every circumstance?

Then take the time to thank God **in** everything, indeed, **for** everything

([**Ep 5:20**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%205.20)) 20Giving **thanks always for all things** unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

, knowing that God can use it for your good

# Do this, and you will not only do what is God’s will for you, but you will develop an “ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE” and we will become "more than conquerors" through the love of Christ and the love of God...! - cf.

# [Ro 8:35-39](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%208.35-39)…36As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.37Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.38For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,39Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Remember these words…Keep an**….“ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE”**