

GIVE THANKS IN EVERYTHING

1 Thessalonians 5:18; Philippians 4:5--7

Introduction: "Are you blind?" "Can't you see what's going on?" "Are you deaf?" It is very easy to become preoccupied with this or that and miss out on something that is going on around us, sometimes something very important. Focusing on things is necessary sometimes and all of us do it but focusing on the "wrong" things can cause us not to recognize God and cause us to wonder if God cares for us when things go astray.

God encourages us to give thought, focus, when we pray and constantly think about God. In doing so we will find plenty of reasons to give thanks to God in and for everything.

I. WE WILL GIVE THANKS FOR GOD'S UNSPEAKABLE GIFT (*1 Corinthians 9:15*)

1. This unspeakable gift being salvation through God's Son, Jesus Christ.
2. Indescribable is the love that thought of salvation for mankind. Salvation was born in the heart of a loving God.
3. Wonderful is the love that brought salvation to mankind. The babe who was born in Bethlehem's stable was God's own Son and God's Son came to be mankind's Savior.
4. Non understandable is the love that caused salvation to come. Think of the cross and God's own Son willingly dying on that cross for mankind's sin. Totally non understandable.

II. WE CAN GIVE THANKS FOR GOD CAUSING US TO ALWAYS TRIUMPH IN JESUS CHRIST (*2 Corinthians 2:14*)

1. Through Jesus Christ, God works in all things to bring out every possible good for those who love Him and look to Him for guidance and help.
2. God causes us to triumph in hours of decision when we turn to Him for help.
3. God causes us to triumph in hours of difficulty when hard times beset and we turn to Him for help.
4. God causes us to triumph even when life seems to defeat us at every turn and we look up to Him.

III. WE CAN GIVE THANKS FOR THOSE WHO CARE FOR US (*2 Corinthians 8:16*)

1. Paul gives thanks for his fellow laborers and helpers in God's service, being especially grateful for Titus who took on a responsibility of being a spiritual guide for many new converts.
2. We should be grateful to God for Parents who care enough for their children to be spiritual guardians and guides for them.

3. We should be grateful to God for Teachers who have been and are an example and leader to their students in Christian living. Many are Christians today because of a teacher who led them to the Lord.
4. We should be grateful to God for Christian friends who have helped us get and stay close to God, especially any who led us to the Lord or helped us in a time of crisis.

IV. WE CAN GIVE THANKS FOR VICTORIES THAT COME THROUGH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST *(1 Corinthians 15:57)*

1. We should be driven to God when sickness and/or surgery comes. Think of the many prayers offered in hospital rooms or surgery waiting rooms. God hears those prayers.
2. We should be thankful for forgiveness of sin and victory over sin when we go to God in true repentance.
3. How thankful we should be that for the believer there is victory over the death for there is eternal life in God's Son, Jesus Christ and life for the believer continues forever with the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. Thankful we should be that the grave does not hold the believer in Jesus Christ and that from the grave a new body, made for heaven, is given to that believer.
5. Think about it! Victory throughout all eternity and in heaven with no more cares of this world.

CONCLUSION:

1. Christian, there is a very close connection between "think" and "thank." If one spends time thinking about what all God does for him/her, then there would be more "thanking" God.
2. How can anyone who says he/she is a Christian, a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, not be grateful, thankful, in awe, amazed, at the love God and His Son, Jesus Christ has bestowed upon him/her.
3. Christian, if you focus upon God, no matter what happens during your life on earth, you will always find something to be thankful to God for. It's there, look for it!