

## Give Thanks in Every Situation

*Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in every situation because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, CEB)*

What does it mean to give thanks in **every** situation? Or as other translations say, give thanks in **all** circumstances?

Admittedly, this is a very difficult thing for us broken humans to do. We can be thankful in many situations. Perhaps we can be thankful in almost every situation. But, in ALL situations? Well, that's asking a lot, isn't it?

The apostle Paul seems to think otherwise. He believes that as we practice the habits of 'rejoicing always' and 'praying continually,' we will come to have the perspective of being thankful all the time. I've heard people call it, **an attitude of gratitude**.

It doesn't necessarily mean that everything's going well for us at the moment. In fact, we will often face situations that will test our attitudes of gratitude. The challenge for us is to look at life in those moments from a different perspective: a heavenly perspective. To draw back from the situation we find ourselves immersed in and see it from 10,000 feet above, so to speak.

Why? Because God's heavenly purposes are being accomplished in some way, even in the midst of our struggles, and even if we can't see it at the time. That in itself is reason to offer thanksgiving in every situation.

As we enter into Thanksgiving week, I invite you to take on the perspective of Christ Jesus, who has our best interest in mind. I'm going to ask God to help me with this, too. Life isn't always easy or neat and tidy, but we can always find reason to give thanks.

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor David Rittgers*