

Thankfulness:

Gratitude and appreciation for what you have.



1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, “give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.” Often people wonder what God’s will is for their lives - well, here is one thing we can know for sure, it is *God’s will* that we give thanks in all circumstances. Consider that for a moment... what does “all” mean? Only the good circumstances? Only when things go the way we think they should? No, it means to be thankful in each and every circumstance we encounter. We may not be thankful for the situation, but we can express gratitude and appreciation for *something* in that circumstance.

Several years ago, another car slammed into our car - on our anniversary! It totaled our car and ruined our planned anniversary celebration, but we had much to be thankful for; neither of us, nor the driver and four children in the other car were seriously injured. We don’t know, but the Lord may have used our car to save the other’s lives; if we hadn’t been where we were, the driver may have rolled their car and seriously injured or even killed the passengers. We still celebrated our anniversary and thanked the Lord for life and His protection. Many suffer much worse than our accident, but the Bible says that, “we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him.” (Romans 8:28) We may not see the good things in the situation at the time, but we trust God for His faithfulness through the situation.

Folks, thankfulness is an attitude of gratitude that should permeate the believer’s life. It is looking at what we have rather than what we don’t have. A thankful attitude will positively affect your marriage, family, church, even your community, and could help our nation as you affect others. Be thankful in all circumstances - look for the good in every situation. Contemplate the goodness of our God and give Him thanks.

Helpful Resources:

Fortified Marriages Resource page: www.fortifiedmarriages.com

Books to check out: *Spirituality of Gratitude: The Unexpected Blessings of Thankfulness*
by Joshua Choonmin Kang

Choosing Gratitude: Your Journey to Joy by Nancy Leigh DeMoss