

THINGS EVERY BELIEVER SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR  
1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

Introduction

*Psalms 95:2-* “Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.”

The **Thanksgiving** season is a wonderful time of the year, but as **BELIEVERS** we should celebrate it differently than those who are lost do. Our text says here: *1 Thessalonians 5:18-* “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

As **BELIEVERS**, our lives are to be in a **CONTINUAL STATE** of **THANKSGIVING** because it is the **WILL OF GOD** for us! Another verse of **SCRIPTURE** says in *Ephesians 5:20-* “Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;”

I think we have to learn to give **THANKS IN ALL THINGS** in order to be **THANKFUL FOR ALL THINGS**.

**What Do We Have To Be THANKFUL And GRATEFUL For?**

**1. WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL AND GRATEFUL FOR OUR SALVATION!**

May we never take for granted **GOD’S GRACE** and **MERCY** that was given to us as well as the **VICTORY** we have through the **LORD JESUS CHRIST** over death, hell, and the grave!

*1 Corinthians 15:57-* “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

*Romans 6:17-* “But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.”

Let’s keep in mind where we could be today without **CHRIST** having come into our life?

**2. WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL AND GRATEFUL FOR THE GOODNESS OF GOD!**

“**GOD IS GOOD ALL the time and ALL the time GOD IS GOOD!**”

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*1 Chronicles 16:34-* “O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.”

*Psalms 100:4-5-* “4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, And into his courts with praise: Be thankful unto him, and bless his name. 5 **For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; And his truth endureth to all generations.**”

*Romans 2:4-* “Or despisest thou **the riches of his goodness** and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that **the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?**”

**GOD** reaches out to us even when our heart is breaking over some difficult circumstance of life and even when it may seem that our whole world is falling apart! Through the **PRESENCE** of **HIS** indwelling **HOLY SPIRIT** in our lives as **BELIEVERS**, **HE** can bring us a sense of **PEACE** and **COMFORT** as we look to **HIM** and **DEPEND** on **HIM** to get us through those difficult times!

**GOD IS GOOD** in that **GOD DOES NOT** and **WILL NOT EVER ABANDON US** even in the darkest of times that come our way and even if we **FAIL HIM HE WILL NOT FAIL US!**

**GOD IS GOOD** and because of that absolutely **NOTHING** can ever separate us from the **LOVE OF GOD**, which is in **CHRIST JESUS** our **LORD!** (*Romans 8:28; 31-39*)

**3. WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL AND GRATEFUL FOR THE ACCESS WE HAVE TO GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST!**  
We have **AN ENTRANCE** into **GOD’S** very **PRESENCE** by the **HOLY SPIRIT** through our **LORD JESUS CHRIST!**

*Ephesians 2:18-* “For through **him [JESUS]** we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.”

*Ephesians 3:12-* “In whom we have **boldness** and **access** with confidence by the faith of him.”

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Because we have this **ACCESS to GOD by JESUS CHRIST**, we can come **BOLDLY to GOD!** (*Hebrews 4:14-16*)

**4. WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL AND GRATEFUL FOR OUR HAVING THE ENTIRETY OF GOD'S WORD!**

*2 Peter 1:21*—“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

*1 Thessalonians 2:13*—“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but **as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.**”

*2 Corinthians 1:20*—“For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.”

**5. WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL AND GRATEFUL FOR BELIEVING FRIENDS—OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN OUR LOCAL CHURCH!**

*Romans 1:8*—“First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.”

*1 Thessalonians 1:2-3*—“We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; 3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;”

*2 Thessalonians 2:13*—“But 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:”

*1 Corinthians 1:4*—“I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;”

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**6. WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL AND GRATEFUL FOR THE GENEROSITY OF OTHERS! (*Philippians 4:14-19*)**

*2 Corinthians 9:11*—“Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.”

**7. WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL AND GRATEFUL FOR THE FAVOR (GRACE ) OF GOD!**

*Psalm 5:11-12*—“11 But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: Let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: Let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee. 12 For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; With favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield.”

*John 1:16*—“And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.”

*Proverbs 12:2*—“A good man obtaineth favour of the LORD: But a man of wicked devices will he condemn.”

**8. WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL AND GRATEFUL FOR THE PEACE OF GOD WE HAVE THROUGH CHRIST!**

*Colossians 3:15*—“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; **and be ye thankful.**”

**9. WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL AND GRATEFUL FOR MEANINGFUL WORK AND ACTIVITY!**

*Colossians 3:17*—“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

*Colossians 3:23-24*—“23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.”

**10. WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL AND GRATEFUL FOR THE DAILY PROVISION AND CARE OF GOD!**

*Psalms 79:13*—“So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: we will shew forth thy praise to all generations.”

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*Matthew 6:26*—“Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?”

**11. WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL AND GRATEFUL FOR BEING COUNTED WORTHY IF WE SUFFER FOR CHRIST’S SAKE!**

*Matthew 5:10–12*— “10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”

*1 Peter 2:19-21*—“For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. 20 For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. 21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:”

**12. WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL AND GRATEFUL FOR THE STEADFAST LOVE, FAITHFULNESS, AND RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD.**

*Psalms 92:1-2*—“It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: 2 To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night,”

*Psalms 89:1*—“I will sing of the mercies of the LORD for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations.”

*Psalms 119:62*—“At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments.”

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**Conclusion**

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