



Handout November 24, 2023

Give Thanks *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

Welcome back and Happy Thanksgiving! I hope you enjoyed the holiday and had a great meal! If you didn't, you certainly will tonight!

Thanksgiving may be experienced differently for each of us: with family... alone... with friends... in jail... not feeling well... joyful... or... depressed. No matter your situation...

1) We are to be _____!

Psalm 100 A Psalm of Thanksgiving

¹Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! ²Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. ³Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. ⁴Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. ⁵For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.

I love this Psalm and the song. What better expression of gratitude.

"We are His people and the sheep of His pasture"!

This alone brings me joy. When I was in the world's pasture, I was never at peace!

My question to you tonight is this:

ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR EVERYTHING?

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 ¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

2) We must be _____ for _____ as well!

In our Tuesday Bible study we just started the book of *James*. Lesson 1 was on ***James 1:2-7***.

"...Count it all joy..." --- we learned "to count" means to put our trials in the POSITIVE column.

I want you to think of your trial, your struggle, your hardship, your concern.

Can you honestly thank God for it? Can you count it all JOY? Our scripture block tonight starts with ***"Rejoice Always"***.

Why is it so important?

3) _____ and _____ are a mental attitude.

It is a choice. I am always grateful for God's lessons. I actually make it a habit to thank God when I am struggling!

WHY? It takes the power away from the trial. I acknowledge God's supremacy in my life. I remember His love for me and then I use Faith-rest.

Philippians 4:4-6 ⁴*Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I will say, rejoice!* ⁵*Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.* ⁶*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;*

"REJOICE and THANKSGIVING"

Again, together. Do you see the pattern? It is a way of thinking. It is also a way to respond!

It is very easy to give thanks in good times. I want to encourage you tonight to give thanks in your troubles.

Can you thank God, honestly, for your trials?

Colossians 3:14-17 ¹⁴*But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.* ¹⁵*And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.* ¹⁶*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.* ¹⁷*And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

Colossians 4:2 *Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;*

Tonight, we took communion together. We are one body.

Let's invite the Holy Spirit to empower us to have a positive mental attitude of THANKFULNESS and JOY.

- God loves you.
- God is aware of your anguish.
- God understands your anxiety.
- The Holy Spirit can heal and bring peace.

4) In _____ give _____.

REMEMBER, GOD HAS A SOLUTION WAY BEFORE YOU HAVE A PROBLEM.

Let's pray.

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