

Be Thankful

In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (I Thessalonians 5:18)

We are exhorted to be thankful for all things (Ephesians 5:20). It is easy to be thankful when things are fine, although many of us tend to take pride in our good fortunes and forget to be thankful. It is not so easy to be thankful when things are not going well. We must remember that God causes all things to work together for good for His children and be thankful even if we do not understand what He is doing (Romans 8:28).

God is almighty and sovereign, and we should remember to thank Him for who He is (Psalm 92:1-4; 103:19-22; I Timothy 1:17), for what He has done for us through Christ (I Corinthians 1:4; 15:57; II Corinthians 9:15; Colossians 1:12), and for what He is doing through us (II Corinthians 2:14; Ephesians 1:15-17; I Thessalonians 2:13).

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him [God] be the glory forever. Amen. (Romans 11:33-36)

Let the peace of Christ [God] rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. (Colossians 3:15-17)

We are to pray to God with thanksgiving, realizing that all things are from Him (Colossians 4:2; Ephesians 5:20). If we cease worrying about our circumstances and take all our concerns to God in prayer with thanksgiving, we are promised the peace of God that comes with the full understanding that He is working all things out according to His will and good pleasure (Philippians 2:12-13; Romans 8:26-28). Additionally, we should thank God for our fellow believers and for what God is doing for and through them (Romans 1:8; Philippians 1:3-6; II Thessalonians 1:3-4; 2:13-15; Philemon 1:4-7).

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)

For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints [*believers*], do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. (Ephesians 1:15-17)