

Theme: Believers are called to be grateful people, giving God thanks in all circumstances.

I. Intro – God’s Will? – Before Text

A. Many books on God’s will; finding God’s will

1. Google: finding God’s will – 1.7 million!
2. CBD – God’s will – 7,692
3. People want to know God’s will for them

B. Here is God’s will – 1 Th 5:18 - give thanks!

1. This is easy to understand!
2. But are we obeying??

II. The Command to Give Thanks

A. Common NT command (v18; Eph 5:18-20; Ph 4:6; Col 3:17)

B. Believers should have thankful hearts

1. It is God’s will for them
2. It is related to being filled with the Spirit
3. We are to be thankful in everything!

III. For What Should We Be Thankful?

A. Life – Acts 17:25; Job 33:4; 34:14-15

1. God gives us life (Acts 17:25; Job 33:4)

2. Without God, we would die (Job 34:14-15)

3. We live because of God – not ourselves

B. Possessions – Deut 8:17-18; Acts 17:26; 1 Cor 4:7

1. God gives us ability to make wealth (Dt 8:17-18)
2. God determined where & when we live (Acts 17:26)
3. Photos – poor child; beggar; children; blind man

C. Freedom from persecution –

1. Expectation of persecution in NT
2. 2 Tim 3:12; Mt 10:24-25; John 15:19-21
3. Reality in Bangladesh & India
4. We have great freedoms here!

D. All things - Inheritance from God –

1. Heirs of God – Rom 8:17
2. Forgiveness of sins – Ephesians 1:7
3. Righteousness – 2 Corinthians 5:21
4. Security – John 10:28-29
5. Hope & future – Jeremiah 29:11
6. All things – 1 Corinthians 3:21-23

IV. Conclusion & Summary

A. Do we have thankful hearts?

1. We live in a culture of cynicism & complaint
2. Are we listening to God or the culture?
3. Do we see how much we have been **given**?

B. Do we verbalize our thanks to God?

1. God wants to hear it from our mouths!
2. Out of the overflow of the heart, mouth speaks
3. Speak praise and thanks to God!

C. Thanksgiving – a great time to start!

A Thankful Heart for Thanksgiving

1 Thessalonians 5:18

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That's Why We Praise Him

Numbers 6

¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, **be filled with the Spirit.** ¹⁹ Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ **always giving thanks to God the Father for everything,** in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:18-20

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in **everything,** by prayer and petition, **with thanksgiving,** present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it **all in the name of the Lord Jesus,** giving **thanks** to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because **he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.** Acts 17:25

⁴ The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life. Job 33:4

¹⁴ If it were his intention and he withdrew his spirit and breath, ¹⁵ all mankind would perish together and man would return to the dust. Job 34:14-15

¹⁷ You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." ¹⁸ But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today. Deut 8:17-18

²⁶ From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and **he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.** Acts 17:26

4 photos – Bengali boy working; Muslim beggar; children; blind man

⁷ For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not? 1 Corinthians 4:7

¹² In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 2 Timothy 3:12

A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebub, how much more the members of his household! Matthew 10:24-25

¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' **If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.** If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. ²¹ They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me. John 15:19-21

¹⁷ Now if we are children, then **we are heirs-- heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ,** if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. Romans 8:17

⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the **forgiveness of sins,** in accordance with the riches of God's grace Ephesians 1:7

²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that **in him we might become the righteousness of God.** 2 Corinthians 5:21

²⁸ I give them eternal life, **and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.** ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; **no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.** John 10:28-29

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, **plans to give you hope and a future.** Jeremiah 29:11

So then, no more boasting about men! **All things are yours,** ²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future-- **all are yours,** ²³ and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God. 1 Cor 3:21-23