

# **Giving Thanks in Everything—A Tough Command**

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: I Thessalonians 5:15-18.

B. We are to rejoice always, giving thanks in everything in constant prayer.

C. Can a person really give thanks in everything?

## II. God wants every believer to give thanks in Him. (Psalm 92:1-2)

A. Thanksgiving was intended to be a way of life for every believer.

B. Whatever we are doing God intends for us to have a lifestyle of thanksgiving. (Psalm 147:1, 7, Psalm 100, Philippians 4, Philippians 1)

## III. There are limitations to giving thanks but not many.

A. The limitation of giving thanks to God is in sin, but we can thank God for the process He deals with us having sinned.

B. Giving thanks does not have to do with feelings but an act of the will.

## IV. The reason that God expects us to give thanks to God in everything is because of the powerful impact of this thanksgiving on every area of the Christian life.

A. It keeps us continually aware of God's presence.

B. It motivates us to look for God's purpose in an event.

C. It helps us to bring our will into submission to God's will.

D. It reminds us about our dependence upon God.

E. It helps us to develop a stronger trust in God.

F. It enables us to rejoice.

G. It focuses our attention upon God rather than our circumstances. (II Corinthians 5)

H. It energizes us.

I. It changes anxieties into peace. (Philippians 4)

## V. When we look for a quick way out, most of the time we are making a mistake.

**Application questions:**

1. What are the limits to giving thanks?

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2. How can you grow in giving thanks as a lifestyle in both a practical and provable way?

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3. Which reason for the impact of thanksgiving stands out to you the most? What strikes you?

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