

Giving Thanks Always for All Things

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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Prayer Concerns:

Notes:

Personal Study/Growth Group Discussion Questions

Getting Started:

1. What are you most thankful for this year?

Digging Deeper:

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

1. We can struggle at times to determine God's will for our lives. But verse 15 clearly states His will for us in Christ Jesus. What is God's will for us?

2. In her book, *The God of All Comfort*, Hannah Whitall Smith [1832-1911] observed, "*The soul that gives thanks can find comfort in everything; the soul that complains can find comfort in nothing.*" Do you tend to be a complainer or one who gravitates toward thanksgiving?

3. The Apostle Paul suffered severely during his life and ministry [read 2 Corinthians 11:23-30]. What was his response to adversity? "*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances...*" [1 Thess. 5:16-17]. How, like Paul, can you cultivate a heart of thanksgiving in *all* circumstances?

4. Psalm 116:17 says, "*I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord.*" When is offering thanksgiving to God a *sacrifice*?

Taking it Home:

1. Remember the refrain of this old hymn?
*Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.*

Take time to literally list and count the many blessings God has bestowed upon you. It's not a competition, but see how many you can list.