

An Attitude of Gratitude

May 28th & 29th, 2016

Ephesians 5:20

“giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,”

1 Thessalonians 5:18

“...give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

“Giving thanks always and for everything”

Always: “Perpetually; throughout all time; ... Continually; without variation; ... constantly during a certain period, ...”¹

❖ A thankful and grateful heart can only be experienced by the filling of the Holy Spirit!

“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,” Ephesians 5:18

❖ The Holy Spirit always glorifies Jesus and always declares to us the truth about the greatness and sovereignty of Almighty God!

“When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take what is Mine and declare it to you.” John 16:13-14

“To God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”

An attitude of gratitude *always, for everything, and in all circumstances* is possible as we learn to rest in the Sovereignty of God!

📖 Psalm 46:1-11

“... Be still, and know that I am God. ...”

❖ God has a timing for everything He does.

📖 Ecclesiastes 3:1-11,17

Job 1:20-22 “Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. And he said, ‘Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.’ In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.”

Psalm 31:14-15a “But I trust in You, O Lord; I say, ‘You are my God.’ My times are in Your hand; ...”

❖ God has a purpose for everything he does.

Proverbs 16:4 “The Lord has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.”
For example...

... The captivity of Israel *Genesis 15:13-14; Numbers 33:4*

... The Ethiopian attack on King Asa *2 Chronicles 14:9-11*

... The three nations' allied attack on King Jehoshaphat *2 Chronicles 20:17*

Isaiah 45:5-7 “I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness, I make well-being and create calamity, I am the Lord, who does all these things.”

👉 Joseph had learned the sovereign plan of God for his life. *Genesis 45:7-8*

❖ Resting on God's sovereignty frees us from anxiety.

📖 Luke 12:22-34

↳ Anxiety robs us of peace and gratefulness to God!

Anxious: "to draw in different directions; distract,"²

♦ Esther overcame her anxiety when she surrendered to God!

Esther 4:16 "Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish."

↳ God is always working His great plan for the good of His people!

Philippians 4:6-7 "do not be anxious about anything, 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 understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

📖 Psalm 34:1-6

Endnotes:

¹ Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.

² Vine, W.E. *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*. Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997.

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