

## You Are With Me

This seems like a really hard thing to do. **What's that?** I don't know how I will ever be able to give thanks when bad things happen to me or to the people I love and care about. **Is that what you think I want you to do? Do you really think I want you to give thanks for terrible things that happen in life?** You don't? **No, that would be really weird, don't you think?** Yes, that's exactly what I thought. **Yes, I know. Let me clear this up for you.** I'd like that a lot.

**I don't want you to give thanks for every circumstance that you find yourself in. You will find yourself in some terrible circumstances in life.** Yes, I know. **You live in a sinful and broken world. Sin has corrupted the world and everything in it. Bad things can and do happen to good people. You know that.** Yes, I certainly do. **In every circumstance I want you to give thanks to me.** You do? **Yes, I do.**

**Why do you think that you can still give thanks to me in the midst of terrible circumstances?** I'm not sure. **What do you know about terrible circumstances and me?** You are with me in the midst of all my circumstances. **Yes, I am.** I am never alone in the pain that I feel or the loss that I experience. **No, you are not.** You feel my pain and weep when I weep. **Yes, I do.**

You are never more near me than when I am feeling broken hearted about something. **Yes, that's true.** Some of the closest and most intimate moments I've spent with you have been when I've been experiencing great pain. **I have never left you alone, have I?** No, you haven't. **Is that something to rejoice and give thanks about?** Yes Lord, it is.

**What have I been able to do with terrible circumstances?** You have been able to bring about good in my life even when something really terrible has happened. **Like what?** You have grown my faith and trust in you when I have gone through great difficulties. You have deepened my prayers as I have cried out to you. **Aren't those outcomes worth rejoicing and giving thanks?** Yes Lord, they are.

**What do you know about this life and terrible circumstances?** This life is short. It is like the blink of an eye or a snap of the fingers or even a mist that is here one second and gone the next. **Yes, but what do you have to look forward to?** I have living forever in heaven with you to look forward to. **Has the pain and suffering in this life ever caused you to think more about living forever in heaven with me?** Yes, it has. **Isn't that a cause to rejoice and give thanks for even in very difficult circumstances?** Yes Lord, it is.

**Do you think that you can now rejoice in every circumstance you will face in life?** Yes Lord, I know that I can rejoice because you are with me. **Yes, I am.**

*Lord, help me to give thanks in all the difficult circumstances I will face in life. Thank you for drawing near to me when I have been broken hearted. Thank you for bringing about good even when I have felt pain, suffering and loss. Amen*

**Gratitude** *Give Thanks In All Circumstances*

give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

NIV 1 Thessalonians 5:18

**Gratitude** *Give Thanks In All Circumstances*

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

ESV 1 Thessalonians 5:18

**Gratitude** *Be Thankful In All Circumstances*

Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

NLT 1 Thessalonians 5:18

**Gratitude** *In Everything Give Thanks*

in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

NKJV 1 Thessalonians 5:18

**Gratitude** *Give Thanks In All Circumstances*

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

NRSV 1 Thessalonians 5:18

**Gratitude** *Thank God No Matter What Happens*

thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live.

MSG 1 Thessalonians 5:18

**Gratitude** *Thank God In Everything*

Thank [God] in everything [no matter what the circumstances may be, be thankful and give thanks], for this is the will of God for you [who are] in Christ Jesus [the Revealer and Mediator of that will].

AMP 1 Thessalonians 5:18

**Gratitude** *No Matter What Happens, Always Be Thankful*

No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

TLB 1 Thessalonians 5:18

**Gratitude** *In Everything Give Thanks*

in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

NASB 1 Thessalonians 5:18

**Gratitude** *Give Thanks Whatever Happens*

and give thanks whatever happens. That is what God wants for you in Christ Jesus.

NCV 1 Thessalonians 5:18

**Gratitude** – 1 Thessalonians 5:18

**In Context:** *Read 1 Thessalonians 5*

**Begin With Prayer:**

***Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.***

**Meditating On God’s Word:** ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

**Considering The Words:** ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

give thanks | in all | circumstances, | for | this is | God’s will | for you | in | Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

**Praying The Scripture:**

***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, help me to give thanks in all the difficult circumstances I will face in life. Thank you for drawing near to me when I have been broken hearted. Thank you for bringing about good even when I have felt pain, suffering and loss. Amen

**What It Means:**

***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

What is the difference between giving thanks for all circumstances and giving thanks in all circumstances?

When have you been able to give thanks to God in the midst of difficult circumstances?

**How have difficult circumstances caused you to rely on God and deepened your faith in Him?**

When have you felt God’s nearness to you in the midst of difficult circumstances?

**What good has God been able to bring about through difficult circumstances you have gone through?**

How have difficult circumstances helped put your life with the Lord into perspective?

**How have difficult circumstances caused you to keep your eyes on the Lord?**

**Living It Out:**

***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Give thanks to God in every difficult circumstance you face because you know He will bring about even in them.

**Seeing It Happen:**

***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will help you through every difficult circumstance you face in life.

**Get Ready To Share:**

***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how your faith and trust in the Lord has grown through difficulties.

**Close With Prayer:**

***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

*Pause And Offer Prayers Of..*

*With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You*

Adoration... \_\_\_\_\_

Thanksgiving... \_\_\_\_\_

Confession... \_\_\_\_\_

Intercession... \_\_\_\_\_

Petition... \_\_\_\_\_

## Journal

*As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord*

### What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

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### What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

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### Prayer Of Blessing

*(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)*

*May you give thanks to God as He helps you to go through difficult circumstances in life.*

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### Prayer To Carry

*(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)*

*Lord, I will give thanks to you as you help me to go through difficult circumstances in life.*

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### What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

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### A Question To Ask God

*(What Would You Like To Ask God?)*

*Lord, how can I give thanks to you as you help me through difficult circumstances today?*

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