

**- GRATITUDE -**

**Give Thanks in all Circumstances**

1 Thessalonians 5:18   Romans 8:28   2 Corinthians 12:9-10   1 Peter 1:7

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As Christians it is important to let others know that we see how they have helped us. Jesus promoted gratitude as a way of life. He had a deep thankfulness within his own soul and he promoted the concept of gratitude in his followers. The scriptures tell us "to give thanks in all circumstances." That's really a tall order. It sounds simple enough until you get into "one of those" circumstances. To embrace life in all its variance creates a journey toward depth and happiness.

**I**

Sometimes we wonder, "How can I thank God when things don't go well?" Giving thanks in all circumstances doesn't mean give thanks *for* all circumstances. God has designed all things for the good of those who love him and he purifies our hearts with fire.

Why is it so important to see God's hand in our suffering? How can we have a thankful heart in the midst of trials?

**WE**

Each of us has a special circumstance, a special hardship, given to us to draw us closer to the Lord. There are people who show surprising character by rising above the circumstances to find something to learn and grow from in their turmoil.

What are some reasons to be thankful in all circumstances? What have you learned from the hardships in your life? Are you thankful for the lessons learned?

**THEY**

\*No trial is easy, but it can be purposeful. Whenever trials come our way, remember these are an opportunity to strengthen and purify our faith in God. For this we can be thankful.

Does the world see your faith by the way you persevere? What are some specific ways that we can share our faith and hope through our thankful attitude?