

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

1 Thessalonians 5.18 NLT

(1) Do I have the **perspective** of thankfulness?

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

“will” (thelema): propose; resolve, sovereign determination

- ▶ If God is sovereign and determines all that happens, does He determine bad things to happen?

In every thing give thanks:
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus
concerning you.

1 Thessalonians 5.18 KJV

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

Romans 8.28-30

In all things and in all circumstances, I can give thanks because I know that God is good, God is faithful, and that God loves me. I can give thanks because I know that in all things, God is working according to an eternal plan for my life; the goal is to make me more like Jesus which will give my life the greatest value in eternity.

Whatever happens, give thanks,
because it is God's will in Christ Jesus
that you do this.

1 Thessalonians 5.18 GWT

(2) Do I have an **ability** (or capability) for thankfulness?

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

The issue is “to be” or “not to be” — in other words, do I choose to be thankful or do I, either by reflex or choice, express something other than thankfulness?

Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” (Philippians 2.14-15)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5.22-23)

(3) Do I have the **capacity** for thankfulness?

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

The issue is: have I cultivated the practice of gratitude?

Do I intentionally and daily reflect on God's goodness and give to Him an offering of thankfulness?

Be cheerful no matter what;
pray all the time;
thank God no matter what happens.
This is the way God wants you who
belong to Christ Jesus to live.

1 Thessalonians 5.18 THE MESSAGE