

# 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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**In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you**—en panti euhareisteite; touto gar thelēma Theou en Christō Iēsou eis hymas (ἐν παντὶ εὐχαριστεῖτε· τοῦτο γὰρ θέλημα Θεοῦ ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ εἰς ὑμᾶς). En panti (ἐν παντί, 'in everything') is comprehensive—not 'for everything' (suggesting thanksgiving for sin or evil) but 'in everything' (maintaining thankful spirit amid all circumstances). Eucharistia (εὐχαριστία, 'thanksgiving') flows from recognizing God's sovereign goodness even when circumstances appear bad.

**For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you**—Christians seek God's will regarding vocation, marriage, location; Paul declares it plainly: rejoice evermore (v. 16), pray without ceasing (v. 17), give thanks in everything (v. 18). These three commands constitute God's will 'in Christ Jesus'—not apart from Christ but through union with Him. Only Christ-connection enables constant joy, unceasing prayer, and universal thanksgiving. Apart from Christ, circumstances dictate emotions; in Christ, gospel truth sustains joy, prayer, and thanksgiving regardless of circumstances. These aren't personality traits (some are 'naturally' joyful or thankful) but Spirit-produced fruit available to all believers.

## Historical Context

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Paul writes from adversity to adversity—he's suffering (3:7), they're persecuted (2:14; 3:3), yet he commands thanksgiving 'in everything.' This isn't positive

thinking or denial but faith-based perspective: God sovereignly works all things for believers' good (Rom 8:28), including suffering. Early Christians thanked God for persecution (Acts 5:41), imprisonment (Phil 1:12-14), and martyrdom (Polycarp's prayer thanking God for martyrdom privilege). This thankfulness amid suffering puzzled pagans and attracted observers—how could people give thanks when losing everything? Gospel truth produces gratitude transcending circumstances.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How do you give thanks 'in everything' (maintaining grateful spirit) without giving thanks 'for everything' (blessing evil)?
2. What evidence demonstrates that you've discovered God's will (rejoice, pray, give thanks) rather than merely seeking it in decision-making?
3. How does union 'in Christ Jesus' enable thanksgiving in circumstances that would naturally produce complaint?

## Interlinear Text

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ἐν παντὶ εὐχαριστεῖτε· τοῦτο γὰρ θέλημα θεοῦ ἐν  
In every thing give thanks this for is the will of God In  
G1722 G3956 G2168 G5124 G1063 G2307 G2316 G1722

Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ εἰς ὑμᾶς  
Christ Jesus concerning you  
G5547 G2424 G1519 G5209

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ephesians 5:20** (References Jesus): Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

**Philippians 4:6** (References God): Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

**Colossians 3:17** (References Jesus): And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

**Hebrews 13:15** (References God): By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

**1 Peter 4:2** (References God): That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

**Job 1:21** (Parallel theme): And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

**Psalms 34:1** (Parallel theme): I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

**1 Peter 2:15** (References God): For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:

**1 John 2:17** (References God): And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

**1 Thessalonians 4:3** (References God): For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: