

Thanksgiving Transcript

We are all facing the Thanksgiving holiday this year, it reminds us to *give thanks*. But I'm constantly reminded from Scripture, especially I Thessalonians 5:18, that we are to give thanks for everything, without ceasing, this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. I found that for many years I practiced giving God thanks for all things even though I wasn't thankful for everything. It says we are supposed to do it, so we just do it, even though inside we're not thankful for anything. "How could I be thankful for this mess I'm in?"

But then, when you come to realize, as Paul says in Philippians 4:6, is that we are to commit everything to Him, through prayer, with thanksgiving. To be thankful that we can come and leave and give whatever our situation is into His hands and be thankful that we can trust Him because it is His design that I am thanking Him for. All the hardships, all the difficulties, have been designed by God for His glory.

So, I find that in my own heart, in my own mind, when I'm not giving thanks to the Lord for all things from my heart, is that I am not acknowledging that all things are under His control and lordship. I can thank Him because He is the Lord of everything, even me. So, if I can't give thanks for my circumstances and I complain, I'm complaining against God. He is the one that has designed it; He has it for me to experience Him and trust Him.

So, on that note, keep that in mind as we celebrate the traditional Thanksgiving here in the Western world. But, remember that the Scripture says to give thanks to God for everything. We can only do that from the heart when we know that we're thanking God for the very things that He designed and for His will for our lives. So, we're really praising Him.