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| **SERIES** | NINE WEEK CHALLENGE - Message Date: Nov. 27, 2022 |
| **BIBLE** | 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 |
| **TITLE/TOPIC** | Gratitude |
| **OVERVIEW** | Gratitude plays a big part in our discipleship formation and well-being as people. We have all experienced what if feels like to be on the receiving end of ungratefulness. But Gratitude is not something that comes naturally to us. Gratitude should be a discipline we as Christ-followers must put into practice that becomes a way of life for us. Gratefulness will bear fruit as we begin to practice this in our relationship with God and others as well as how we manage our time, talents and treasures. |
| **SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN** | **Gratitude =** the quality or feeling of being grateful or thankful: [THANKFULNESS](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/thankfulness); conscious of benefit received; expressive of thanks  **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**  ***16****Rejoice always,****17****pray continually,****18****give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.*  **THREE HABITS TO IMPLEMENT ON THE ROAD TO GRATEFULNESS:**   1. **REJOICE ALWAYS: MAKE AN ATTITUDE OF REJOICING YOUR DEFAULT MODE IN LIFE. (v. 16)**   ***16****Rejoice always*  **Philippians 4:6-8**  ***4*** *Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!* ***5*** *Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.* ***6*** *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.* ***7*** *And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*  The secret to rejoicing in the Lord always is found in praying continually with thanksgiving and not allowing worry to rob our joy.   1. **PRAY WITHOUT CEASING: ENGAGE IN PRAYER AS AN ONGOING CONVERSATION. (v. 17)**   ***17****pray continually*  The *Greek* is, "Pray *without intermission*"; without allowing prayerless gaps to intervene between the times of prayer. (AR Fausset)  A Christian should never be in a place where he *could not* pray.  “When joy and prayer are married their first-born child is gratitude.”   * **Spurgeon**   “Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer. And let faith be the bridge you build to overcome evil and welcome good.”  ― **Maya Angelou,**[**Celebrations: Rituals of Peace and Prayer**](https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/50622)  “If the only prayer you said was thank you, that would be enough.”  ― **Meister Eckhart**   1. **IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS: CHOOSE TO GIVE THANKS IN EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE YOU STEP INTO. (v. 18)**   ***18****give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.*  How do I make Gratitude and Thanksgiving a habit in my life?   * Practice the discipline of Giving Thanks Daily   “Cultivate the habit of being grateful for every good thing that comes to you, and to give thanks continuously. And because all things have contributed to your advancement, you should include all things in your gratitude.”  ― **Ralph Waldo Emerson**   * Put Gratitude and Thanksgiving into Practice in ALL Circumstances! * This default mode of Gratitude is God’s will for Your Life.   Many people today wonder what God’s will is for their life. Living in Gratitude first of all to God and practicing it with others is God’s will for your life. |
| **GOSPEL** | How does this sermon bring people to the Gospel?  There are many people today without peace in their lives. When people around us see and experience firsthand people who are giving thanks in all circumstances they will see the Gospel fleshed out in a very practical and attracting way. |
| **NEXT**STEPS | Begin | Connect | Engage | Grow | Disciple  This is more of a Growing and Discipleship message. Looking to get people to  begin to create a habit of thanksgiving in their lives.  **ACTION STEP:**  Write two thank you notes to people in your life and practice this week giving thanks to God daily for everything in your life. |