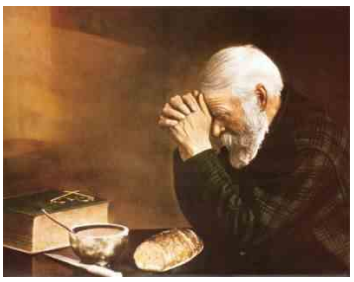
"First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world." Romans 1:8 KJV



Thanksgiving ought to be the first reaction in any situation of every child of God, but sadly, it is either last or forgotten. *"In EVERYTHING give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."* It doesnôt say, FEEL thankful. Itôs hard to FEEL thankful when a loved one dies, but that is the command, nonetheless! It means I must trust Godôs hand in EVERY circumstance of my life, regardless of how I feel. Giving thanks means I wait on God to reveal the purpose of EVERY situation and still trust Him even though He may not! A heart grateful for eternal life truly believes and trusts *"ALL THINGS work together FOR good (not, are good) to them that love God and are the called according to His Purpose. [That] God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."* How rich is God? We don't give thanks, because we don't actually believe. Oh, we say we do, but like the disciples who witnessed the power of Christ daily, whispers of blasphemous doubt assail our soul in the storm. ***ñ****And when they had sent away the multitude, they took [Jesus] even as He was in the ship. And there were also with Him other little ships. And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And He was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake Him, and say unto Him,* ***ó****Master, carest Thou not that we perish?****ô****And He arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea,* ***ó****Peace, be still.****ô****And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And He said unto them,* ***ó****Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?****ò*** We become fearful in the tempest and cry out in unbelief, *"Master! Carest thou not if we perish?"* when we don't believe the promise, *"I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."* We don't believe the promise, *"No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly."* We don't believe the promise, *"Your life is hid with Christ in God."* Like Peter who walked on the storm, we sink in the tempest, because we look at the tempest instead of Christ, the tempestôs Master! The practical application is this; know and trust God's Word in spite of calamity or circumstance! When your trust is in the boat (self), you are at the mercy of the tempest! *"There is no fear in Love; but perfect Love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in Love."* Where fear prevails, love of God wanes. We find self to be insufficient in the tempest! We believe Satan's whisper, *"Hast God said?"* Faith trusts God in the face of human insufficiency! With their backs to the sea and Pharaohôs army in hot pursuit, Moses trusted God and raised his staff to the sea! ***ñ****Thou art holy, O Thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel. Our fathers trusted in Thee: they trusted, and Thou didst deliver them."* Where there is praise, there is God!

Give thanks to God right at the first,
E'en when life seems the very worst,
And then where evil darkness lurks,
Truth's Light the clouds of doubt will burst! *~CGP*

"Offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips GIVING thanks to His name." You will find true Joy, Peace, and Love in thanksgiving from a heart of love to your Heavenly Father. The morning sun always dispels the blackest night and the ***ñ****Bright and Morning Star****ò*** will dispel the darkest tempests evil can muster against you!

> *"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" Romans 8:31-32 KJV*

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