

GIVE THANKS IN EVERYTHING!

These lessons were designed to bring encouragement to believers around the world who are dealing with the Covid-19 crisis; and especially to those who are under the Stay at Home edict.

As Paul closed the Book of First Thessalonians, he listed 17 imperatives (commands) of how believers should conduct themselves during a crisis. The first sixteen are present tenses beginning with “Live In Peace” (1 Thess.5:13-25) and go to the last imperative an aorist tense (greet) (1 Thess.5:26).

I have chosen some out of the pool of **present imperatives** to study, if you count beginning with Live at Peace to our lesson text, you will find this to be the 10th command.

(1 Thess.5:18) “**In (en+loc) everything** (pas/ lsn) **give thanks** (eucharisteo) (p.a.impv.2pl) [keep a grace attitude] (Rom.8:28) **for** (gar) **this** (houstos/ lsn dem.pronoun) [doctrinal point] (**is**) [there is no verb here] **God’s** (theos/ gsm) **will** (thelema/ nsn) **for** (eis+acc) **you** (su/ aplm) **in** (en+loc) **Christ Jesus.**”

This lesson will study three aspects of Give Thanks In Everything.

1. There is no Greek definite article (the) with the words, God, God’s will, Christ, or with Jesus.

This is important because it points to the **demonstrative pronoun** (houstos) [this] connected to “in everything”, A **demonstrative pronoun** is used to emphasize a designated object.

The absence of the Greek definite article, with the typical sources of spiritual solutions, places the emphasis upon the believer keeping a grace mental attitude - in every circumstance in life.

The word (**this**) is a nominative singular neuter without a verb which points back to “**In everything give thanks**” (eucharisteo/ p.a.impv.2pl) as a subject.

The spiritually advancing believer is commanded to give thanks in every difficulty in life, not because it is difficult, but because God’s grace is always sufficient (2Cor.12:9-10).

(2 Cor.12:9-10) “**My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast** about my weaknesses, **so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore, I am well content** with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, **with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake** (Undeserved Suffering); for when I am weak, then I am strong.”

2. To emphasize the importance of being Grace Orientated in every stressful situation in your Christian way of life, Paul uses the Greek verb, eucharisteo (p.a.impv.2pl).

Eucharisteo is a compound Greek verb (eu) [good] and (**charisteo**) [grace]. Every church age believer is commanded to maintain a grace mental attitude no matter what the circumstance of life (especially such trials as Covid-19 or your last doctor’s visit).

This is how you apply the Word of God to your situation and crisis:

(Rom.8:28) “**And we know that God works all things together for good to those** who love God, **to those** who are called according to His purpose.”

In fact, America has a national holiday called **Thanksgiving** to remind us of God' amazing Grace!

(Ps.69:32) “**The humble** (anah) [meek] [the believer oriented to God grace] (Luke 4:18-19) [and messianic prophecy, i.e. (Isa.61:1-2) [the poor] **have seen it and are glad; you who seek God, let your heart revive.**”

3. We have studied the Life of Joseph (Gen.37-50).

We study the Undeserved Suffering of Joseph and how his Grace Orientation to it REVIVED his soul and developed him into a Spiritually Mature Super-Grace missionary in Egypt.

We learned that it took him only six verses to recover and to set his eyes on Christ, NEVER looking back for the rest of his life! (Gen.37:23-28; **39:1-4**).

(Heb.12:2) “**Fixing** (good old southern term) **our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of faith,** who for the **joy set before Him endured the cross** (Heb.11:6), despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Joseph was able to get on with his life and to FORGIVE his brothers for plotting to murder him, for telling his father a lie about his death, and selling him into slavery to Egypt.

This was because of his spiritual growth maturity amidst great Underserved Suffering.

It propelled him towards dependency on the All-Sufficiency of God's grace and reuniting with his family in Plan of God.

(Gen.50:20) “As for you, you meant evil against me, **but GOD meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.**”

This is a picture of a transformed life in Christ Jesus!

(Rom.12:2) “And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind,** so that you **may prove** (to yourself) what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

(Heb.13:8) “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

(1 Thess.5:18) “**In everything gives thanks for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.**”