

Giving thanks in these times? Yes!

In his letter to the church at Ephesus, the apostle Paul encouraged those early believers to continue "...giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ," (Ephesians 5:20, NKJV). That doesn't seem like such a hard task. For most of us, it's not difficult to be thankful when things are going well. But when hard times hit, especially in these current times, the everyday struggles of life can sometimes take all of our resolve just to face them. Giving thanks always for all things can seem impossible.



In my day to day, I hear many life situations that range from heart wrenching to challenging at best. Some of these are the result of choices and some are just life. But looking at these situations in the natural can be dangerous. A person can begin to lose hope, especially if their perspective is based on their circumstances.

Throughout the years our perspective tended to lean on our circumstances. But the Lord has been shifting my husband Gary's and my paradigm after many years of struggle. We can certainly relate to those who have had rough times, which now I wouldn't trade. These struggles have eventually caused us to draw close to God. We had choices to make along the way to either

press into Him or turn away from Him. We had choices to make about learning the discipline of overriding our circumstances by choosing life. We chose life by realizing our great need for Him, seeking Him, and crying out to Him.

God's original intent continues on today for us to be in relationship with Him. His desire is for me to run to Him, to turn to Him, and cry out to Him; so He can give me hope and love. In Romans 5:3-5 Paul writes, "And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance, and perseverance, character, and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." (NKJV)

By Teresa & Gary Best, Founders

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As our paradigm continues to shift we are able to see that Romans 5:3-5 is true. Trials do bring about perseverance, character, and hope. When we cried out to God in our need, He

answered our cry. Not necessarily with lots of money, or a brand new home, or a new car; but with provision, and shelter, and friends and family who care and love us. And the best of all is He answered with hope. And hope really doesn't disappoint.

So in this season of thanks be encouraged. I hope that we all are able to find many things to be thankful for, great and small. Because "...He gives to all life, breath, and all things." (Acts 17:25, NKJV)

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