

Week 48
329/36

Transforming Daily
“ . . . giving thanks always for all things . . . ”
Ephesians 5:20

The gist of Paul’s instruction here in Ephesians is that the believer is to be selfless not selfish with a heart of grateful thanksgiving toward God. The context of his instruction is church related. Each in the church is to be submissive to the other and willing to serve one another in humility and love. Paul’s admonition is that all believers should walk aware of spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:10-18) in wisdom avoiding foolishness and disobedient ways.

Just before this verse, Paul tells the believer, in so many words, to rejoice in the Lord. The evidence of rejoicing in the Lord is reflected in songs of Joy and words of praise to God in the presence of each other. However, verse 20 is something else, “giving thanks always for all things?” What about adversity, am I to give thanks to God for that? What about significant financial loss or the loss of a family member, am I to thank God for that? What about catastrophic and tragic events, am I to give thanks to God for that? The literal answer is yes, but let me explain.

What Paul is going for here is an attitude of thanksgiving toward God no matter the circumstances. So it’s not that the believer is necessarily to thank God for the flu, but is thankful to God while having the flu. It’s not that the believer is necessarily to thank God for the burning down of their house, but that through the experience the believer is grateful to God because of who He is. In the same breath, the believer is to be no more thankful for a win-fall in their life than they were before prospering.

On the other hand, while the believer may not be able to see that which to be thankful for at the time or in the midst of adversity, later it may very well be evident. Therefore, for the one trusting God, he or she can be thankful to Him for everything because He knows the outcome of every event before, during, and after its actual occurrence. That doesn’t mean there won’t be pain and suffering, it just means that one can be thankful to God for it. This falls under the category of easier said than done. To be sure it is a discipline to be developed throughout life’s journey.

Do you reflect the joy of Christ in your life? Has adversity stolen or hindered your attitude of thanksgiving toward God? Do you have a general attitude of gratitude toward God just because of who He is? Are you able to give thanks to God for all things?