

Growing in Thanksgiving (Philippians 4:4-9)

Life Church St. Louis – November 24, 2013

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Psalm 107:1 (NIV) Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV) give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1. _____ in the Lord

Philippians 4:4 (NIV) Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

1A. Be _____ always

Philippians 4:5a (NIV) Let your gentleness be evident to all.

1B. Remember the Lord is _____

Philippians 4:5b (NIV) The Lord is near.

2. Pray with _____

Philippians 4:6b (NIV) ... in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

2A. Don't _____ about anything

Philippians 4:6a (NIV) Do not be anxious about anything, but ...

2B. Trust that God _____ you

Philippians 4:7 (NIV) And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

3. Think about _____ things

Philippians 4:8 (NIV) Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.

3A. Put God's Word into _____

Philippians 4:9a (NIV) Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice.

3B. Know that God is _____ you

Philippians 4:9b (NIV) And the God of peace will be with you.

Growing in Thanksgiving (Philippians 4:4-9) Study Guide

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Intro. What do you like about the Thanksgiving holiday? Anything you don't like?

What kinds of things can we give thanks to the Lord for regardless of our situation (Psalm 107:1)?

In what ways is 1 Thessalonians 5:18 a challenging command to obey? What is the implicit promise in this verse?

1A. What is the difference between rejoicing for all things and rejoicing in the Lord (Philippians 4:4)? How could this verse help your joy level?

1B. What is the connection between rejoicing in the Lord and being gentle to others (Philippians 4:5a)?

1C. How should the realization that the Lord is near affect your life (Philippians 4:5b)?

1D. What are the main hindrances in your life to rejoicing in the Lord? How do you think you could grow in joy?

2A. When you pray and ask God for something, why is it important to include thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6b)?

2B. How can prayer with thanksgiving completely replace worry and anxiety in your life (Philippians 4:6a)?

2C. What are the conditions to the promise of Philippians 4:7? Describe the benefits of this promise for the believer.

2D. Why are many people ruled by their emotions rather than choosing to obey God's Word? How can people change and receive God's blessing?

3A. What are the challenges in our culture to obeying God's command in Philippians 4:8?

3B. Why is it essential to put the good things of God's Word that we think about into practice (Philippians 4:9a)?

3C. Reflect on the similarities and differences between the promises of Philippians 4:7 and 4:9b.

3D. What are some practical steps that you can take in your life to prioritize thinking about good things?