

FLEURIEU EDGE

Thankful In All Things

The author's daughter has an allergy to peanuts. Her sensitivity is so acute that eating the tiniest fragment of a peanut threatens her life. As a result, they have to scrutinize food package labels. They have to carry an epipen (medicine used to treat allergic reactions) wherever they go. And, when they eat out, they have to call ahead and quiz the staff about the restaurant's menu items.

Despite these precautions, they still feel concerned, both for her current safety, and for her future safety. This situation is not something they would normally feel thankful about. Yet, God's Word challenges: "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." There's no getting around it. God wants us to pray with thanksgiving when the future is uncertain, when heartbreak hits, and when shortfalls come.

It's hard to be grateful in difficulties, but it's not impossible. Daniel "prayed and gave thanks" (Daniel 6:10). Knowing that his life was in danger, Jonah called out "with the voice of thanksgiving" (Jonah 2:9) while inside a fish! These examples, coupled with God's promise that He will work all things together for our good and His glory (Romans 8:28), can inspire us to be thankful in all things, and in all circumstances, we can give thanks that God has not left us on our own.

Jennifer Benson Schuldt

1 Thessalonians 5:12-22 ¹²Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you ¹³Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. ¹⁴And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. ¹⁵Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray continually, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²²reject every kind of evil. (NIV)

"Doing Life Together"



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