

July 2003

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

--I Thessalonians 5: 18

It was a very difficult time for me when I first began to understand this verse—to thank Him in everything. Every situation and circumstance, just continue on thanking Him. But finally I reached the point where I could say, Yes, Lord, I do thank you in these circumstances. I thank you from my heart, because I know You will soon rescue me from this horrible pit.

But imagine the sheer horror when the Lord began to take me deeper, and to let me know that this kind of thanks was not sufficient. He required more. I couldn't understand that, for sure! I was taking some pride, here, in the fact that I was learning to thank Him even when I didn't have the rent money or gas for the car. But He led me to the revelation of Ephesians 5:20: Giving thanks ALWAYS for ALL things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now I did a double take. Thank Him FOR this pain? Thank Him FOR my disease? Thank Him FOR my unruly child? Thank Him FOR the four slashed tires on my car? Lord! Surely this was not what You meant! Or was it--? Some well-meaning sisters in the church tried to assure me that God never required us to be thankful FOR such horrible things. I struggled with this kind of thinking, because that's not what the Word said.

At the risk of sounding like "Dear Abby," much mail comes to my various mailboxes from confused and hurting people. Each desperate for answers, each longing for a way out of the pain and depression. I tell them that the answer lies in worship. A thankful heart. But, Sister Doty, I DO worship! I was raised on a Pentecostal pew, always worshipped. It doesn't work for me!

Hogwash. If that be so, why all the worry and fretting? Why do you continue to hurt? I have come to see that there is NO way we can TRULY worship God and still worry. We cannot do these things simultaneously. God is either big or He's not. We focus on our pain and our problems so much that they grow bigger and bigger. And all the while, God is growing smaller and smaller. Pretty soon, we have made Him so small, that we have that sinking feeling that He's really not going to get us out of this mess.

So many of us have been healed and delivered and yet we continue to seek healing. We continue to suffer needlessly because we have allowed the enemy of our soul to trick us. To steal our healing. To lie to us. And we have believed his nasty lies. When he hissed in our ear, "Did God really heal you?" the doubts crept in again. We were ready for the clincher: "If God healed you, then why do you feel the same old symptoms again? Eh? You'll NEVER be healed! Your case is too hard!"

A Woman's Place Ministries
P O Box 936
Winnsboro, SC 29180
director@awpministries.org

It is time for us to believe our God! It is time to put our total trust in the One who knows us best and always has our best interests at heart. It is time for us to realize that whatever God allows into our lives has already gone through His nail-scarred hands. It is time for us to learn to pray for the will of God in our lives and in the lives of our loved ones. The prayer of relinquishment. When we have done that, we can know peace.

It is time for us to rise up and spit in the devil's eye. Follow our God! Worship our King! Love our Redeemer! Trust our Healer! Thank our Deliverer! Do like Joshua, and praise the walls of our problems down! Joshua and the Hebrews praised and sang, before they saw the evidence. The book of Hebrews defines faith: "Faith is the substance of things HOPED FOR, the EVIDENCE of things NOT SEEN" (11:1). Don't wait till you have your answer—you might never get it. Ask Him...and then rest in the knowledge that He has heard you, and He will answer you if you believe. After that, no begging, no whining, no moaning...just praise, and thank Him for the answer! Sing and praise His power!

~~~~~  
God bless you,  
Your friend,  
Lynda Allison Doty  
[www.awpministries.org](http://www.awpministries.org)  
[www.apostolic.edu/rock](http://www.apostolic.edu/rock)  
[www.soteric.org](http://www.soteric.org)

