

"Sensing God During the Storm"

Part 3

'Giving Thanks, Even in the Storms'

Today's Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

⌘ This we know from our study in this series:

⌘ There are battles that all believers face. (Ephesians 6)

⌘ There are storms that believers and non-believers face. (Matthew 5:45b)

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⌘ These storms 'can' teach us 5 things...

1. The nature of my faith.
2. The strength of my commitment.
3. The level of my maturity.
4. The healthiness of my attitude.
5. The measure of my teachability.

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Take Note

⌘ In a storm, we really do have a choice as to our attitude...

☞ We can have an attitude of fear!

☞ We can have an attitude of hopelessness!

☞ We can have an attitude of poor-me!

☞ And we can decide to give-up!

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- ⌘ There is only one person who loves to promote these kinds of attitudes and his name is satan.
- ⌘ But God wants to empower you through the mighty work of the Holy Spirit.
- ☞ Now, this is God's plan to deal with the storms: To fix our minds on the blessings and gifts of the great and awesome God who still sits on the throne of the universe!

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⌘ In our daily life, Paul gives us instructions, and these are the instructions for...

∞ ...Storm days

and

∞ ...Non-Storm days

⌘ What are they?

1. Be joyful always...

2. Pray continually...

3. Give thanks in all circumstances!

4. For this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus!

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Pastor Gary, let's just say I'm in a storm, and I can only see & feel the storm.
How do you suggest I thank Him and for what?

WOW – What an awesome question!

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⌘ Four areas I can give thanks to God...

1. *"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift."* 2 Corinthians 9:15 (NIV)

☞ The greatness of God's gift of salvation through Jesus Christ was indescribably wonderful.

- ✓ We can thank God for our salvation which came from the heart of a loving God.
- ✓ We can thank God for Jesus, born in Bethlehem's stable, to be our Savior.
- ✓ We can thank God that Jesus paid the price for sin on Calvary's cross.
- ✓ We can thank Him for the risen Christ!

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2. *"But thanks be to God who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ..."*
2 Corinthians 2:14a (NIV)

☞ We know that as God leads us, He has our best interest in mind, and is at work to bring about every possible good for those who love Him." see Romans 8:28

✓ God can bring victory in days of decision.

✓ God can bring victory in our days of difficulty.

✓ God can bring victory even in our defeats.

☞ Yielding my life over to God's control is the best way to get ready for the victory celebration!

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3. *"We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus..."*

Colossians 1:3-4a (NIV)

☞ Paul was always grateful for his fellow laborers and helpers in kingdom service.

☞ In the storms of life, being grateful for those who have had spiritual impact in your life can give you "strength" in the Lord.

✓ Thanking God for parents/grandparents who have served as spiritual guardians and prayer warriors.

✓ Thanking God for teachers/youth workers who have served by word and deed to help us grasp a greater understanding of God's truth.

✓ Thanking God for Christian friends who have lead us closer to God!

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4. *"But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*
1 Corinthians 15:57 (NIV)

∞ What Paul is telling us is that through Jesus Christ, we can be confident of the ultimate victory.

✓ Victory over sin.

✓ Victory over death.

✓ Victory over the grave.

✓ Victory in sickness and suffering.

✓ Victory throughout eternity in our heavenly home prepared for us by our loving heavenly Father!

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⌘ There are two words that have the same letters except for one. And they can really help us develop the positive attitude of thanking God in all things.

∞ 1st Word - Think

∞ 2nd Word - Thank

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- ⌘ If we would consistently spend time thinking (meditating) on the blessings of God, given to us through Jesus Christ, then the heart of thankfulness (gratitude) begins to grow.
- ⌘ As this happens, we will have the faith, confidence, and the grace of God flowing through our lives to make it possible to thank God in everything!