

Worship Devotion: Mending the Mess.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_GGjdj4FV4o

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

Regardless how difficult our circumstances may be, we can find reasons to thank God. We can be thankful that all things work together for our good if we belong to Him. We can be thankful that God's grace is sufficient to sustain us in every circumstance. We can be thankful that nothing can separate us from God's love. We can be thankful that God even supports us spiritually when trials produce difficulty in our prayer life. Rough circumstances also prove the genuineness of our faith.

"Rejoice always" (1 Thessalonians 5:16). Joy is not the same thing as happiness. In a similar way, Scripture notes the difference between giving thanks "for" our circumstances, as opposed to giving thanks "in" our circumstances. For example, a car wreck may not find us giving thanks for a twisted fender and smashed radiator, but we can give thanks that we have insurance and a God who is always present with us. We may not thank God for an illness, but we can be thankful for medicines and doctors. Persecution is not something we would be thankful for, but we can be thankful that God can use that hardship for our eternal benefit.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uW6xcmqfiY4>

Psalms 46:10, [NIV](#): "He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.'"

Psalms 46 is a song for Zion, God's holy city where his people dwell with him - the city is holy because God dwells in it. This psalm is all about security with God that God is our true home. It's mostly written in third-person, but in this verse there's a change and God speaks directly. Throughout the verses, we also read several descriptions about God - his characteristics and attributes: he is our refuge, he is strong, present, and a great help to those who are weak. God is higher than all else and able to rule above all. At his voice the earth melts.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EVgW8h_BhwM

2 Thessalonians 1:12, [NIV](#): "We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."

The "name" of Jesus refers to who Jesus is, His character and what He does. In other words, Paul and his co-workers were praying that the Thessalonians' lives would reflect Jesus in all that they did, in their character and conduct. Paul held this desire for his own life. Later, while undergoing a lengthy courtroom trial that would result either in his freedom or his execution, he testified that it was his "eager expectation and hope that ... Christ will be honoured in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live be Christ, and to die is gain".

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, how grateful we are to have the inspired scriptures as a mirror through which we are enabled to see the things we need to do, to honour your name.

I pray that I may remain firm in the faith, grow in love and rejoice in the blessed hope that we have in Christ. Thank You for the privilege of prayer and for the wonderful witness we have from Paul's powerful praying.

I pray that my intercessions and prayers may be guided by You as we look for that glorious day when Christ comes for His Church... and may we all be sanctified entirely - spirit; soul and body, and be made complete and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ - in Whose name I pray,

AMEN