

3 Eye-Opening Reminders When You Don't Feel Like Being Thankful

This is the time of year when people will be doing “thankful challenges,” and other people will remind us that we should be thankful all year 'round, not just in November.

And we should be thankful all year long.

Paul instructed us to be thankful in all circumstances.

“In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (1 Thess. 5:18).

This doesn't sound very hard, until you're faced with a huge financial setback, a child who is very ill and in the hospital, marriage trouble or a health crisis.

Suddenly, our minds are gripped with worry and anxiety. Frustration overtakes us and plants seeds of doubt in our minds and we begin questioning God.

Why me?

We start to second-guess ourselves, wondering if we somehow stepped out of God's will. We begin to think that if we were truly in the will of God these bad things wouldn't happen to us.

There are two things we need to remember in being thankful when life goes sideways:

1. We need to ask the right questions. In this post: “Are You Asking the Right Question?” I point out that the right question isn't why, but what.

2. Being in God's will doesn't protect us from bad things

happening to us, it enables us to walk through difficult circumstances with peace and joy.

3. Being thankful always is God's will, so if you want to know what God's will for your life is, now you know.

By now I'm sure you're wondering how you could possibly be thankful for a child who is very ill or a marriage that is on the rocks.

Paul didn't say, "For everything give thanks," but "In everything give thanks."

In other words, just because you're facing a trial, or as my dad terms it, "waves of adversity," doesn't mean you stop finding reasons to live thankful.

Learning to live life through a prism of thankfulness and gratefulness is a discipline that helps keep our heart free from trap of entitlement and ungratefulness that leads to bitterness, selfishness, and pride.

For this reason I think November is a great time of year to remind ourselves of this important lesson. What's more, I think it is the best start to our holiday season.

Begin to create a pattern of living thankful so that as we approach Christmas we aren't consumed with what we want more than we are with celebrating Christ's birth.

Here's how I am creating a pattern of intentionally living thankful:

I hope you'll join me in the Daily Christian Living Facebook Group for "25 Days of Thanksgiving." Each day I will share one thing I am thankful for, and I hope you'll join me in the comments by telling me one thing you are thankful for as well.

Our "November 30-Day Prayer Challenge" is for Thanksgiving. I have found 30 verses that talk about thanksgiving or praise

(which is often just another word for thankful), to remind ourselves to be thankful always.

As with all of our prayer challenges, you can use the “30-Day Prayer Challenge” for Thanksgiving all year long!

Let's start off this holiday season with training our hearts and minds to default to thankfulness in every situation, in every circumstance, in every trial and in every setback until we can face each one with peace, joy and secure faith in knowing that God is always in control and will somehow turn each circumstance around for His glory!

To join me for “25 Days of Thanksgiving,” go to our Facebook page here and join: Daily Christian Living. {[eo](#)}

Rosilind Jukic, a Pacific Northwest native, is a missionary living in Croatia and married to her Bosnian hero. Together they live with their two active boys where she enjoys fruity candles, good coffee and a hot cup of herbal tea on a blustery fall evening. Her passion for writing led her to author her best-selling book *The Missional Handbook*. At *A Little R & R* she encourages women to find contentment in what God created them to be. You can also find her at *Missional Call* where she shares her passion for local and global missions. She can also be found at *on a regular basis*. You can follow her on Facebook, Pinterest and Google +.