



A Thanksgiving Prayer

What is God's will for my life? It's a question you've probably asked yourself many times. And the Bible has an answer: "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18 NIV).

God doesn't tell you to give thanks *for* all circumstances. We can't be thankful for every situation in life—especially heartaches and tragedies. But God says that we can be thankful *in* all circumstances. When you're thankful, it helps you get your eyes off your troubles and onto God's goodness and blessings.

During this Thanksgiving season, I want to offer you a prayer you can pray, alone or with loved ones, to focus your heart on God's unchanging truths.

Dear God,

When we reflect on this past year, we remember times we felt joy and hope—and also times we were confused, angry, and sad. We haven't been grateful for all of it, but we're learning to be grateful in all of it—because we know that you've been with us, every step of the way.

In Psalm 103, you remind us of the many reasons we have to be grateful. You've forgiven all our sins. You've crowned us with love and compassion. You've been gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in love. We are thankful for all of it!

And we trust you when you say, "I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future" (Jeremiah 29:11 NCV).

God, thank you for your provision in the past, your presence with us today, and your plans for our future. Thank you for the blessing of friends and family who are together. And make your presence especially real to those of us who feel alone.

Thank you, most of all, for Jesus. Give us the grace to live our lives like he did and to share the Good News of his love and salvation every chance we get.

In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen.

I'm praying you have a wonderful Thanksgiving. Please know how thankful I am for your partnership in spreading the hope of Jesus to everyone, everywhere.

God bless you,

Pastor Rick