

# *Becoming* a Thankful Person

1 Thessalonians 5:18

2 Corinthians 6:1-10

**Bored or Excited**

**Anxious or Calm**

**Frustrated or Confident**

**Discouraged or Hopeful**

**Envious or Satisfied**

Living life with a deep sense of gratitude and thankfulness is a better way to be by far.

It really isn't even close.

Two reasons everyone in this room should seek to become a thankful person.

1: Being a thankful person enables us to see goodness and beauty in every season and situation of life.

2. It is a powerful antidote against the most malicious and harmful character traits we have as human beings.

Gratitude grows out of contentment.

Philippians 4:11 ...*Not that I speak from need, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.*

To become a Thankful person  
requires three things:

1. *A Compelling Vision*
2. *A Determined Decision*
3. *Effective Means*

# **False belief #1**

**Lie: Contentment and Gratitude depend on our circumstances.**

**Truth: Contentment and gratitude depend on receiving the New Life from above through trust in Jesus.**

## False belief #2

**Lie:** I can be a thankful person if I try hard enough.

**Truth:** Becoming a content/thankful person requires a connection with God allowing Him to bring about the spiritual transformation of our hearts.

We can actually become the kind of people who are *always giving thanks for all things* (Ephesians 5:20) and who *in everything give thanks.* 1 Thessalonians 5:18

...in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in difficulties, in beatings, in imprisonments, in mob attacks, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger, in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in, genuine love, in the word of truth, and in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left, by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; regarded as deceivers and yet true; as unknown and yet well known, as dying and yet behold, we are alive; as punished and yet not put to death, as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing all things.

2 Corinthians 6:4-10

*“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me” 2 Corinthians 12:9*

*...give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

1 Thessalonians 5:18

**Becoming a thankful person requires giving thank even when...**

We give thanks even when by recognizing even when life is incredibly hard, God is still incredibly good and we have more than enough evidence to see that.

# Recommended: Life without Lack by Dallas Willard.

It will take...

...a community with unified vision for transformation

...prayer

...a determined effort to practice obedience to Jesus

...learning to linger with Jesus

...learning and practice doing what Jesus did

...the grace of God enabling and empowering and transforming our character

