THANKS BE TO GOD

PRINCIPLE #1  We are approaching the Thanksgiving Holiday when we are reminded of our blessings; it is a time when we recognize them and appreciate them.

I Thessalonians 5:18 NIV

Four things that I am thankful for

1. My salvation
   Mark 8:34-36 KJV
   nothing is of eternal value without salvation
   His salvation saves me from
   Matthew 25:41 NIV  eternal torment
   Romans 6:20-23 NIV  slavery to sin
   Luke 4:18-19 NASB  things Jesus was commissioned to do
   Acts 10:38 NASB  things that Jesus accomplished
   His salvation gives me
   Romans 6:23 KJV  eternal life is a free gift of God
   II Corinthians 5:17 NASB  we can be free from our past
   II Corinthians 2:14 NIV  there is victory in Jesus
   Philippians 4:7 KJV  we can live with peace in our hearts and minds

2. God’s word which is truth
   II Timothy 3:16-17 KJV  the Bible is real and totally beneficial
   Hebrews 4:12 KJV  the Word of God can penetrate more completely than a two-edged sword, separating spiritual thoughts and attitudes from worldly ones
   Romans 10:17 KJV  it is the supplier of our faith
   John 1:1-3 NASB  the Bible is about Jesus from the creation story to the end of Revelation and His promise to return soon
   John 8:31-32 NIV  God’s word is a guidebook to help us overcome every storm in life that we go through
   Romans 15:4 NIV  God’s word gives us hope.

3. Trials and hardships
   James 1:2-4 NIV  we should be joyful when we face trials
Philippians 4:13 NASB  overcoming the storm is possible with Christ

PRINCIPLE #2  It is difficult to be thankful when the storms of life crash down on us. Betsy ten Boom gave thanks for the lice infesting the women at a German death camp when it didn’t make sense.

 Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart. – Betsy ten Boom

4. Family, church family, and friends

Paul referred many times to Christian men and women as brothers and sisters.


Hebrews 10:24-25 NIV  keep on meeting together and maintaining the fellowship

PRINCIPLE #3  The apostle Paul expressed thanks for the people of the churches that He established on his missionary journeys and for Christians where he had not been to yet.

Romans 1:8 NASB

Philippians 1:3-6 NASB

This expression of thankfulness is typical in most of Paul’s letters.

I yoo-khar-is-teh'-o my God upon every remembrance of you. Paul is in prison in Rome.

He is thankful with joy that these people believed the gospel, that their faith increases, and that God will finish the good work that He has begun in them.

I Thessalonians 5:18 NIV

Romans 5:3-5 NIV

PRINCIPLE #4  Paul wrote from experience for he suffered much. The joy for his brothers and sisters and the hope he had in Christ Jesus for eternity would have helped him to give thanks during his sufferings.

II Corinthians 11:23b-28 NIV