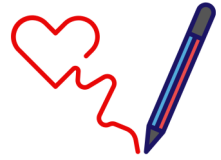


FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Give Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters-in-Christ,

You would have heard of a popular saying, “The cup is half full or half empty.” It is a metaphor that is often used to reflect a person’s mindset and attitude towards life. Seeing the cup as “half full” suggests an optimistic perspective, focusing on what is present or what one has. However, seeing it as “half empty” suggests a more pessimistic view, focusing on what is missing or lacking. This concept highlights how two people can look at the same situation and interpret it very differently. It also encourages self-reflection: Do you tend to see life with gratitude for what’s available, or do you focus on what’s lacking? Granted, what is being said is helpful for all of us to develop positive thinking and stay away from the negativity of life. However, it is easier said than done because it is based on one’s abilities, power, and resources. In recent years, there has been much emphasis on caring for our mental well-being because human limitations are here to stay no matter how strong we are.

The apostle Paul said 1 Thessalonians 5:18, “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” It sounds like a tall order, isn’t it? It is part of our natural response to give thanks in good circumstances, but in dire circumstances, it is doubtful. How is it possible to give thanks in all circumstances? The answer lies in who we are giving thanks to. If you focus on the circumstances, giving thanks only follows the good circumstances. To understand what Paul is saying, we are not giving thanks due to the circumstances. Instead, our thanks move beyond our circumstances to God. We have a God who weaves every circumstance to reach His perfect plan for us. As I had preached

recently, God is not only love but in His goodness, He is also sovereign. With this confidence in mind, we can give thanks for the right reason and not be distorted.

Paul continues to say “this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” I believe everyone desires to be in the will of God. So, if you want to be in the will of God, give thanks in all circumstances. When we learn to give thanks, our hearts are gradually being transformed into thankful hearts. A thankful heart cancels out our complaints in exchange for looking out for the goodness of God. Similarly, it also motivates us to look for the best of others. Without it, how can we even love our neighbours and enemy?

I am truly thankful for the support from my staff team, the church council, and all our church members. I pray that all of us will give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for us.

I invite you to pray with me,

Father God, may the Holy Spirit convict me that I am weak but You are strong. As a result, I can give thanks in all circumstances. May I constantly be reminded of your goodness so that my heart will be filled with thanksgiving. May my life reflect your joy and peace in the world of anxiety. In Jesus's name I pray. Amen.

Pastor Kelvin