

## Are You Thankful for That?

*Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.—Ephesians 5:20*

We have a custom at Thanksgiving to tell what we are thankful for. I am certain many of you do the same. I don't believe I have ever heard someone thank God for a terrible situation.

When we go through difficult times, we may thank the Lord that He is with us. We may even say that we are thankful for the assurance from scripture that “. . . all things work together for good, to those who love God. . . . (Romans 8:28).” But, can we thank God for the actual happening? A few years ago, a dear couple in our church had a very trying time. They were in a terrible vehicle accident. The wife was hospitalized with heart problems. At the same time her mother was dying. I know their faith did not waiver. God gave them joy through it all but how difficult it would have been to be thankful for the accident.

I had a student this year who lost all his family's possessions when his house burned down. Could he thank God for the loss of his home? I know of a godly teenager battling cancer. Can those parents thank God?

We are willing to thank God in our circumstances but are we willing to thank God for our circumstances. I am thankful that God is with me and gives me peace and strength and wisdom as I go through trials but I am very thankful when things are easy. I do not like adversity. I should realize that those trials are life changing and it is the trials that draw me closer to God.

Joni Eareckson Tada has said,

I give God thanks for my quadriplegia. It has become the strange friend which helps me know Jesus better. It is the shadowy companion that walks with me daily, pulling and pushing me into the arms of the Savior where I find grace and comfort.

This Thanksgiving and every day, we need to be thankful for the disappointments, the afflictions, and all that we endure because the Sovereign God has an eternal purpose in “all things” in our life.