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IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS

Henry Jacobsen

Praise God even when you don't understand what He is doing.

How many times have we heard that said and said it to others? This quote has been spoken and paraphrased by us all from time to time. While in the season of thanksgiving, it is a great time to really ponder this statement. 1Thessalonians 5:18 says, "in everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Take off the sanctimonious mask and just admit it, when we don't understand what God is doing, it is very difficult to praise Him as it goes against the human grain. My personal life contains circumstances that are not close to what I had expected in life. There are matters so complex and involved God alone can fix it. Praying on these matters goes without saying and the waiting time for results has gone into years passing and no real change has been seen. The prayers are still being sent before God to heal, deliver and restore and sometimes the pain that accompanies what is seen has been known to rob me of the ability to praise God but rather complain to God. From time to time I slip into the complain mode and then I must be reminded to praise God although I truly don't understand what He is doing. When I snap out of the complain bag and put on the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness over the matter, then it lifts my spirit and I feel refreshed. I give a praise report that my ability to remain in praise to God while the matter remains unresolved has increased and the complaining has decreased. Yes, I will be so elated when I can shout out that God has fixed it permanently and all is well. None the less, the grooming process the situation presents has developed a stronger godly character into my life. So, I praise God that I am growing in the midst of the struggle although I still don't understand what He is doing by waiting so long to answer my prayer. Maybe you have your special circumstance that poses this dilemma for you too. Let's encourage each other knowing God is wise, strong and victorious and as we praise Him and wait for the change to come we declare our confidence in His majestic awesome power to work things out for the good and to His Glory.

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