

# In But Not For All Things

*"I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving."*

*Psalm 69:30 (NIV)*

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.*

*For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;  
his faithfulness continues through all generations.*

*Psalm 100:4-5 (NIV)*

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation,  
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,  
present your requests to God."*

*Philippians 4:6 (NIV)*

**T**here are many interesting and sometimes foolish interpretations of biblical truth. Many years ago I read a book on the place of thanksgiving in the believer's life. The author wrote that Christians should give thanks for everything. He wrote that if your unmarried daughter came home and announced she was pregnant you should give thanks for their daughter's sin.

Scripture tells us to give thanks in but not for every issue we face. Many blessings come to the child of God and thanks need to be given daily for the gracious acts of the Lord on our behalf. Every time we approach the Lord in prayer, we need to express thanks for blessings received. Being thankful for the Lord's presence, answers to prayer, and promises He gives of blessings to seek, creates a wonderful attitude that helps

us believe our petitions will be heard.

So, when you spend time in prayer approach the Lord with the praise of thanksgiving. Rehearse your many blessings and name several to obey Scripture about the place of being thankful when approaching our great God and Saviour.

After such a beginning to prayer you will find yourself eager to make your requests known in prayer. Proving to yourself that the Good Shepherd hears and answers prayer by naming answers you will feel your faith strengthened. As your faith grows you will be more confident even bold in your petitions.

During a dreadful drought many years ago in one part of the USA churches called for a special prayer meet-

ing to pray for rain. As the believers gathered someone noticed a young girl carrying something no one else thought to bring. What was it the young girl brought with her? An umbrella. Be thankful in but not for all things you face in life. Yes, bring thankful hearts to the place of prayer and find your anxiety draining away and a spirit of boldness taking its place.

John Newton wrote many hymns and a verse from one seems suitable here.

*"Thou art coming to a King,  
large petitions  
with thee bring,  
for His grace and power  
are such  
none can ever ask too much."*

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