



What Is
God's Will
for **Me?**

GARY HARGRAVE

What Is God's Will for Me Today?

Have you ever wondered what the will of God is for your life? You may wake up in the morning and wonder, “Lord, what is Your will for me today?” But God tells you exactly what His will is for you and what He wants in the relationship between you and Him. He literally answers that question for you today and every other day for the rest of your life.

**In everything give thanks;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.**

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Thankfulness Creates a Love Relationship

Being thankful is a foundational point in your walk with God and creates a unique love relationship between you and your Father. He is instructing you in what He wants you to do, how He wants you to live, and what He wants to impart to you: “In everything give thanks!” You may reason, “Well, that’s just not possible—in everything give thanks?” This statement is so simple and amazing that it just does not seem possible to give thanks in everything, but it is. While I was reading this verse, I suddenly had plumbing issues with water flooding in my home. As I mopped up the mess, I repeated over and over to myself, “In everything give thanks, in everything give thanks, for this is God’s will for me in Christ Jesus.” Isn’t that interesting? God always has ways of preparing you to walk in His will, so you just have to love Him for it.





Thankfulness Is a Great Relationship Builder

Being thankful is one of the greatest building blocks of your relationship with the Father. It is where you start giving back to Him because up to that point, He has done everything. The Father sent His Son to die for you on the cross. He blessed you “with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3). When He raised Yeshua (Jesus) from the dead, He focused on you the power of His resurrection. I know everyone needs to have an initial salvation experience, but even that is a free gift from God (John 3:16). You simply receive what He has done for you. But somewhere you need to engage back to Him—and this is where your part of the relationship really begins—in being thankful to Him.

Your Father has given you all things, but you cannot have a one-sided conversation and call it a relationship. At some point you need to respond to Him and engage in that relationship. How do you come to know Christ, which is beyond knowledge in His love for you and all creation? How can you be filled up with all the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:19)? You can engage in a love relationship with Him by being thankful.



It Is Your Choice to Be Thankful

Thankfulness is something you can exercise by choice, by your free will and the determination of your spirit. I cannot think of anything else like that. We only love because the Father first loved us (1 John 4:19). You cannot just generate love to Him. First, you have to receive His love before you can love Him back freely. That is why God gave much of His creation a free will, which has not always had good results. The devil and his angels had a free choice not to serve God and a third of them fell (Jude 1:6; 2 Peter 2:4; Revelations 12:9). You may wonder, “Why does God allow so many terrible things to happen?” Well, it is because He gave humanity a free will. But when you are thankful, you come to the root of your free will and begin to exercise out of your self-determination, “I choose to be thankful to God for all that He has done and will continue to do.” In everything give thanks? Yes, in everything give thanks! Even if it seems bad, we can still choose to be thankful.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

EPHESIANS 1:3



Thanksgiving Will Increase Your Understanding of God's Will

Until you begin to thank God, you do not really see what is going on behind the scenes in what He is doing and what He is wanting. How do you understand all the horrible events in the history of man? Start to thank Him. And as you do, you will begin to understand His plan, what He is going to unfold, and what He wants to impart to you. Often what seems on the surface to be negative is only what God is allowing you to do in your free will until He brings you into His positive will for your life. Remember, it is God's wonderful will that He beams toward you in His kindness (Ephesians 2:7). God's will is always something that is kind.

If you focus on the difficult events around you, you can get a negative picture of God and think that a walk with God is something distasteful and hard. Many people have a negative attitude towards Him. But it is important to recognize that thankfulness is something you exercise out of your own free choice by saying, "I choose to be thankful." Even if you cannot see anything positive that God is doing in your life, then do it mechanically out of your will—just will to be thankful. You may say, "I don't see anything good here." Great. Thank Him anyway. Say, "Thank You, Lord, for these circumstances. Thank You for what you are imparting to my spirit. I know you are giving me every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places." As you begin to thank Him, your perception will open up. God is ready to show you things and speak to your heart, but it will only come when you respond to Him with thanksgiving. In your thankfulness, you will begin to recognize who He is and what He is doing in His kindness and goodness toward you.

Thankfulness Is the Foundation of Your Worship

We know that God seeks those who worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). But you cannot be a worshipper without thankfulness. The Hebrew word for “thanks” is *yadah*. It means “to thank” or “to confess,” but it also means “to praise.” When you talk about praising God, you must realize that the creation point of praise and worship within you is from that place of thankfulness. So if we are not being thankful, we have to question how effective or how full our praise and worship really is to God. The Lord spoke to me about a new level of worship that is to come, and this is the trigger for it. What are you doing when you worship in the spirit? “You are giving thanks well enough” (1 Corinthians 14:17). Worship comes from a thankful heart; otherwise, your words are just empty when they get to Him. God is not looking for perfect tone quality. He is a Spirit and He is looking for those who will worship Him in spirit and in truth. The truth God is seeking is a sincere thankfulness in the freewill worship of His people.



“Now therefore, our God, we thank You,
and praise Your glorious name.”

1 CHRONICLES 29:13



You Can Touch God Anytime You Want

You have the ability to touch God anytime you want by simply expressing your thankfulness to Him. Find a day when you feel at least a little thankful and begin to express it. In the United States, we have Thanksgiving Day. Let it be a day of sincere thanks where you focus on thanking your Father. Make a list of things to thank Him for; I do not care how simple or normal something seems to be. Everything comes from Him. As you write this list, you will recognize how much happens that you are not appreciative of because you are so used to it. You should thank God in the morning when your car starts. You may think, “Well, that’s no big deal.” True. But it is a big deal if the car does not start. You may think, “But I own a junky car.” That is fine. Start walking everywhere and you will suddenly appreciate your old vehicle. Recognize that everything comes to you from the Father.

**Every good thing given and every perfect gift is
from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with
whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.**

JAMES 1:17

Enter His Presence with Thanksgiving

As little as it seems, begin to thank God because that is praise. Remember His goodness and faithfulness. Write things down so they get locked into your heart and into your mind. Say, “Thank You, Lord! Thank You for Your goodness. I’m coming into Your presence not to ask You for anything because You have already given me so much. Instead, just let me thank You.” People think of the Psalms as instruments of praise and worship to the Lord, and they are. But as you read them, recognize how thematic thankfulness is. Like David, you can make a list of the things you are thankful for and use it as the foundation for a song of worship to the Lord.



Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth.
Serve the LORD with gladness;
Come before Him with joyful singing.
Know that the LORD Himself is God;
It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.
Enter His gates with thanksgiving
And His courts with praise.
Give thanks to Him, bless His name.
For the LORD is good;
His lovingkindness is everlasting
And His faithfulness to all generations.

PSALM 100

Being Thankful Is a Way of Exalting Christ and the Father

Remember all that God has done for you. Bring His goodness back into your knowledge and voice it to Him. You can also voice it to people and make known His great deeds in all the earth. If you are reluctant to witness to others, you can tell them of your thankfulness. Start by saying, “Do you know what the Lord did for Me?” Tell them what the Lord has done in your life and how wonderful He is. One young man told me, “I’m so amazed! I tried this at work and just told someone how awesome and wonderful the Lord is. And by the time we got up from lunch, the guy literally asked if I could help him receive Christ as his Savior.” Being thankful greatly increases the anointing of the Holy Spirit with you and exalts Christ and the Father. There should be a joy in your spirit and an excitement to share it with others.

If you continually give thanks, it will change your life! You can do this because it is done from your will. Joshua was told to meditate on the Word day and night. The Hebrew word for meditate means “to mumble” or “to speak” continually. In other words, just repeat it; voice it to yourself day and night. Give thanks in everything. It is the trigger to make happen what you have waited years and years for in a walk with God. I guarantee it. Do not get discouraged. If you lose it, just pick it back up again without any condemnation and declare, “I am going to be thankful.” It goes back to your will. You can express your thanks to Him by your choice and determination. Be thankful for one another in the Body of Christ as well. As the family of God, we have often been the blessing to each other that God wanted to provide. So we should feel free to express this same flow of thankfulness to each other. Your thanksgiving is praise back to the Father. This will create you into one of those worshippers He is seeking. Thank Him for the wonderful family of God that He has placed you in—and in everything give thanks!

Oh give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name;
Make known His deeds among the peoples.
Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;
Speak of all His wonders.
Glory in His holy name;
Let the heart of those who seek the LORD be glad.
Seek the LORD and His strength;
Seek His face continually.
Remember His wonders which He has done,
His marvels and the judgments uttered by His mouth.

PSALM 105:1-5

** All Scripture references are from the New American Standard Bible 1995 (NASB1995).*

ABOUT GARY HARGRAVE



GARY HARGRAVE has a passion for leading people into spiritual maturity. Gary effectively ministers the life-changing truth of God's Word through Bible teaching and prophetic revelation that emphasizes the Lordship of Christ.

Gary embraces the teachings and insights of the Hebrew Scriptures as the essential foundation of God's Kingdom and the roots of Christian faith.

By cultivating spiritual maturity in Christians, Gary is deeply committed to teaching and inspiring unity in the Body of Christ and between Christians and the Jewish people.

Throughout decades of ministry, Gary has worked closely with leaders in the Jewish, Catholic and Protestant communities to build relationships based on commonality and understanding. He frequently leads study tours to Israel and the lands of the Bible.

Gary is the host of a weekly podcast entitled *Growing In God*, and is the founder of Shiloh University, an accredited online Bible college and seminary.

Gary and his family reside in Hawaii.

For other insightful resources by Gary Hargrave, including podcasts, books, articles, videos, and other educational materials, please visit: www.HargraveMinistries.org.

ABOUT HARGRAVE MINISTRIES

The calling of the Lord upon this ministry is to lead people into spiritual maturity by revealing biblical truth. **Our passion is to see the Kingdom of God manifest on earth** as the Body of Christ grows in unity, power and love.

Everything we do flows from the revelation of the Jewish roots of our Christian faith. It is our desire and privilege to bless the land and people of Israel. Our Israel outreach includes:

- **Feed the poor and break the cycle of poverty in Israel**
- **Support the orphans and widows of fallen Israeli soldiers**
- Provide physical and emotional care to **child victims of terrorism**
- **Build bridges between Christians and Jews with biblical study and research**
- Support archaeology and preservation of the **biblical City of David**
- Provide 24/7 **care for Holocaust survivors**
- **Help persecuted Jews around the world return to Israel and start new lives**
- Plant trees to **reforest Israel** and help create **"The Gospel Trail"** between Nazareth and Capernaum

Hargrave Ministries is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization supported through the generous contributions of ministry friends and partners. To learn more about the work of Hargrave Ministries or to partner in its outreach to Israel, please visit: www.HargraveMinistries.org

