

# When Do I Have *Enough?*

REV. DR. AMY LITTLE

It's easy to give thanks to God when everything is going well, when we feel secure, when our bodies are functioning perfectly and nothing hurts. In those times we can praise the Lord for his goodness and mercy.

It's the times when we are struggling that we need help giving thanks — when bills are left unpaid, when our health is a challenge, when our children are in need and we don't have the resources, energy, or patience to deal with everything. St. Paul's words to us in those difficult seasons of life are precious and encouraging.

**“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:15-18).**

“Rejoice always!” We are called to be joyful in the good times and in the bad because we have Jesus! We have the promise of new life and God's providential care and comfort. With joyful hearts we can sense God's presence.

“Pray without ceasing!”  
Never stop offering cares and

concerns and joys to the Lord. He wants to hear from us! Not because he doesn't already know the state of our heart, but because he wants us to *know* that he knows!

Paul says it is God's will in Jesus Christ that we give thanks no matter what's going on around us, in us and through us. This is the way of discipleship! When we give thanks in all circumstances, we come to realize that we have enough. God provides all we need for the day. Tomorrow is another day, and he will provide for that day as well.

**FIRST HOT POINT:** Are you a glass half empty or a glass half full kind of person? It might be a cliché, but there's great truth in it. Do you give thanks for all that you have, or do you spend time lamenting about what you don't have?

**SECOND HOT POINT:** Paul was consistent with his message to rejoice and pray. To the Philippians, he wrote, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by

prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God” (Philippians 4:6-8). At the end of the chapter, he concludes: “And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (v. 19). If you really look at your life, do you have what you need, or are you lacking? If you're lacking, pray to the Lord to provide for your needs. If you have all you need for the day, give thanks and marvel at the wondrous gifts of God and how blessed you are.

**THIRD HOT POINT:** This is an attitude of abundance, rather than an attitude of scarcity. You may not have everything you want, but I'm willing to bet you have all you need from day to day. Perhaps there was a time when you were in need and God provided for you just in time — not too early and definitely not late! Trust the Lord to give you blessings, as he said: “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened” (Matthew 7:7-8).

