



#1 "Things Standing in the Way of Thanks"

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Proverbs 4:23 (NCV) Be careful what you think, because your thoughts run your life.

Proverbs 13:3 (TPT) Guard your words and you'll guard your life, but if you don't control your tongue, it will ruin everything.

Psalms 19:14 (NLT) May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Luke 6:45 (TLB) A good man produces good deeds from a good heart. And an evil man produces evil deeds from his hidden wickedness. Whatever is in the heart overflows into speech.

1. _____ is where your best life _____.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NLT) Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (TPT) And in the midst of everything be always giving thanks, for this is God's perfect plan for you in Christ Jesus.

2. The _____ of gratitude is _____.

Exodus 16:1-3 (NIV) The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt. In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the Lord's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat

and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.”

1 Corinthians 10:10-11 (NIV) And do not grumble, as some of them did--and were killed by the destroying angel. These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come.

3. We need to _____ the _____ in the gears of gratitude.

We start grumbling when:

- We're not pursuing personal spiritual growth.

Galatians 5:19-21 (NLT) When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

- We've accepted the common attitudes of the culture.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NLT) You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!

- We've allowed pride to have a place in us.

James 1:17 (TPT) Every gift God freely gives us is good and perfect, streaming down from the Father of lights, who shines from the heavens with no hidden shadow or darkness and is never subject to change.

- We've lost focus.

Psalm 46:10 (NIV) He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

- We've violated God's life priorities.

Matthew 6:33 (NIV) But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

- We've stepped into the devil's "comparison" trap.

Exodus 20:17 (NIV) You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

2 Corinthians 10:12 (AMP) We do not have the audacity to put ourselves in the same class or compare ourselves with some who [supply testimonials to] commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they lack wisdom and behave like fools.

- We've adopted unrealistic or wrong expectations.

Psalm 62:5 (NIV) Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him.

- We're nursing anger, unforgiveness or bitterness.

Hebrews 12:15 (NIV) See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.