

**Gratitude Gauge: Psalm 138:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:18; Ron Block's 'There Is a Reason'; Increments Survey****Psalm 138:2 - You have magnified your Word above and beyond your Person.**

This is the divine policy our Lord applied in His rebuke of Satan's attack in the *Jornada*. Although the Lord was suffering from extreme physical hunger, He remained loyal to God's plan for the Incarnation.

Principle: When you are part of an organized effort to accomplish an objective then the good of the organization must take precedence over personal considerations.

The Lord considered His mission greater than His own Person. This was an expression of profound gratitude to the Father's plan, the Word which revealed it to Him, and the mission it contained.

Our mission in the Angelic Conflict is to glorify God and magnify His Word. The only way we can accomplish that object is to join our Lord at the high end of the Gratitude Gauge and magnify His Word above and beyond our own person.

**1 Thessalonians 5:18 - In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.**

At the moment of salvation, the believer enters into a perfect plan designed for him in eternity past by God. There are no exigencies in life of which He unaware when He developed the plan. He has provided you with the wherewithal to endure life's difficulties by following the guidance and leadership of the Word.

Although many of life's exigencies are disconcerting, troublesome, painful, and even life-threatening, none is greater than the plan provided. No matter what set of circumstances you may encounter, there is a reason for it all.

In my view, one of the most talented groups in the entertainment field today is Alison Krauss and Union Station. They have taken Bluegrass music, invented by Bill Monroe, and elevated it to a new level. The songs they sing are typical of the genre: all-acoustic instruments, high-pitched vocals, a mixture of jazz, blues, and gospel sounds, and lyrics which address the problems encountered in life but balanced by spirituals which give hope of a new eternal tomorrow. Their latest release, *So Long, So Wrong* [Rounder CD 0365], contains a song written by Ron Block of Union Station, and sung by Alison Krauss, entitled, "*There Is a Reason*." Its lyrics are so doctrinally accurate and so eloquently address the subject we have before us, I'd like to quote them.

Before doing so, I think it will contribute to your understanding of the lyrics and why I have chosen them as an example of 1 Thessalonians 5:18, if I pass along Ron Block's commentary on what inspired him to write this song. His thoughts are the subject of:

**McIntosh, Gail. "An Interview with Union Station's Ron Block." Rounder Records Spotlight. 19 June 1997**

*We had a lot of songs for the record and none of them were gospel songs. Alison asked me one day if I would write one. We had a long conversation about what the subject would be, about things she was going through at the time, about trusting God through hard times. I think I internalized our conversation and it ended up coming out in the lyrics.*

*I wrote a lot of it one night as we were getting ready to play a show. The time came to play and I had to leave it alone till later, something I hate doing—I always think I won't get back into the feeling. We played the show, and I finished the song in the back of the bus on the way to the next show, with Alison sitting with me tweaking things, moving the melody around, suggesting words.*

*The song was also born out of a lot of painful things I had been going through at the time, as I was learning that the fulfillment of my need for approval and love can only come from knowing that God loves me unconditionally. That fulfillment can't come from music, career, friends, or even family because those things are sometimes here today and gone tomorrow.*

Suffering shows us our need for something bigger than ourselves—pain is always God’s wakeup call. That wakeup call is what He uses to drive us into a deeper walk with Him, into maturity, into total reliance on Him. So, like I said earlier, “*There Is a Reason*” is about seeing the bigger picture, about grabbing onto God when every circumstance shouts at you to do the opposite.

And now, here are the words to:

### **“*There Is a Reason*”**

Ron Block

I’ve seen hard times and I’ve been told  
There isn’t any wonder that I fall.  
Why do we suffer, crossing off the years  
There must be a reason for it all.

I’ve trusted in You, Jesus, to save me from my sin  
Heaven is the place I call my home.  
But I keep on getting caught up in this world I’m living in,  
And Your voice it sometimes fades before I know.

Hurtin’ brings my heart to You, crying with my need  
Depending on Your love to carry me.  
The love that shed His blood for all the world to see  
This must be the reason for it all.

Hurtin’ brings my heart to You, a fortress in the storm,  
When what I wrap my heart around is gone.  
I give my heart so easily to the ruler of this world  
When the One who loves me most will give me all.

In all the things that cause me pain You give me eyes to see  
I do believe but help my unbelief.  
I’ve seen hard times and I’ve been told  
There is a reason for it all.

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### **The Increments on the Gauge**

The Gratitude Gauge begins at zero at the moment of salvation and is a part of the soul’s *tabula-rasa* status with which we begin our spiritual life. However, at the moment of spiritual birth, the justice of God imputes to our +R quite a number of divine operating assets.

Many of these assets coordinate with the Cerebral Cortex of the brain which is hardwired to receive and process information by means of language. Two of these assets are extremely important to our spiritual growth, the development of humility, and the increase of our Gratitude Gauge's readout. These two assets are the two power options: the filling of the Holy Spirit and the Grace Apparatus for Perception.

Utilization of these assets leads to an understanding of the grace system for recovery from sin which begins with confession alone to God alone. Currency in rebound makes the filling of the Holy Spirit a constant source of divine power for receiving and processing doctrinal truths into the soul's stream of consciousness and the brain's neural pathways.

From the resources of metabolized truth, the believer is enabled to orient and adjust to life and circumstances. The first area of orientation and adjustment is with regard to the grace policy of God: God's free gift of unmerited favor. Man through his own work can never achieve the approbation or favor of God.