

Thanksgiving

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

When we consider this scripture, we learn three things about God’s Will for us as believers:

1. We _____ great Joy - Vs 16 *“Rejoice always”* defined- feel or show great joy or delight; Happiness over an unanticipated or present good.
 - a. Joy covers a wide range of insights from:
 - i. _____-Proverbs 5:18 *“Let your fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of your youth”*
 - ii. _____ victory- Isaiah 9:3 *“They rejoice before You According to the joy of harvest, as men REJOICE when they divide the spoil.”*
 - b. Joy can be _____ in:
 - God’s _____ Psalm 122:1 *“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go into the house of the Lord’.*
 - Jesus’ _____ Luke 2:10 *“for great joy which will be to all people”*
 - Jesus’ _____ - Luke 24:52 *“And they worshipped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy...”*
 - _____ - 1 Peter 4:13 *“but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.”*
 - Unbelievers’ _____ - Luke 10:20 *“...rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”*
 - _____ heart- John 15:11 *“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.”*
2. We have _____ communication- Vs 17 *“Pray without ceasing”* - Without ceasing means **“not stopping.”**

We can pray without ceasing by:

- a. _____ on God. Proverbs 3:5-6 *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths”*
 - b. _____ Repeatedly and Often- Psalm 1:2 *“but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on His law day and night.”*
 - c. Praying _____ - Colossians 4:2 *“Continue earnestly in prayer: being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;”*
 - d. Being _____ - **Philippians 4:6-7**
3. We _____ our Gratitude- Vs 18 *“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus”*
- a. _____ isn't our usual response when something goes wrong.
 - b. Give thanks “in everything”—in every _____.
 - Job blessed God _____ his terrible trials, _____ - Job 1:13-21 He loses everything- his property and his children- *“The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord”*
 - David was overwhelmed with _____ - Psalm 69 reflects an urgent plea for help as he cries out- *“Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck. I sink in deep mire, where there is no standing.”* Through his troubles he still said, *“I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving”* in Vs 30.
 - Paul _____ us to *“give thanks in everything”*. Romans 5:3 *“And not only that, but we glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope...”*.
 - _____ to give thanks for the good things! 1 Samuel 12:24 *“Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.”*