

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (KJV)

16 Rejoice evermore.

17 Pray without ceasing.

18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Lord, Just Want To Say Thank!!

1. Rejoice always; rejoice evermore: God has saved us, and He looks after and cares for us. If we love God, God promises that He will take all the circumstances that attack us and work them out for good (Romans 8:28). And on top of this, He has given us eternal life, the glorious privilege of living face to face with Him and serving Him forever and ever. The believer who knows and keeps his mind upon these glorious facts can do nothing but rejoice.

"Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10:20).

"Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice" (Phil. 4:4).

"Rejoice evermore" (1 Thes. 5:16).

"And there ye shall eat before the LORD your God, and ye shall rejoice in all that ye put your hand unto, ye and your households, wherein the LORD thy God hath blessed thee" (Deut. 12:7).

"But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee" (Psalms 5:11).

"Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart" (Psalms 32:11).

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass" (Zech. 9:9).

2. Pray always—without ceasing. Prayer is God's ordained way for man to receive things from Him. God moves, acts, and responds to prayer. Prayer is a law that He has established throughout the universe. Why? Because prayer stirs fellowship and communion with God and brings about a greater knowledge and understanding of God. It causes a person to learn more and more about God and stirs more and more trust as well as worship and praise of God. Prayer stirs and causes every good thing imaginable between God and man. This is the reason God destined prayer as the primary way man is to communicate with Him. This is the reason for this exhortation. Therefore, pray without ceasing; continue and persevere in prayer: in your daily worship and quiet times and as you walk throughout the day.

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Matthew 7:7).

"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:41).

"And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint" (Luke 18:1).

"Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full" (John 16:24).

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints" (Ephes. 6:18).

"Pray without ceasing" (1 Thes. 5:17).

3. Give thanks in all things. How can we thank God for terrible trials such as accidents and death and sin? We don't; this is not what Scripture means. What God means is to thank Him for His presence and power as we walk through such trials. In Christ Jesus there is victory and

3

triumph over all, no matter how terrible. Therefore, in everything (not for everything)—as we walk through all—thank God for the victory He has given us through Christ.

Note the statement, "this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." What is the will of God? All three exhortations that have just been given:

- ⇒ that we rejoice evermore.
- ⇒ that we pray without ceasing.
- ⇒ that we give thanks in everything.

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephes. 5:20).

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" (Phil. 4:6).

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" (Col. 3:17).

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thes. 5:18).

"For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving" (1 Tim. 4:4).

"Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High" (Psalms 50:14).

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High" (Psalms 92:1).

"Give thanks unto the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people" (1 Chron. 16:8).