

Thanks For Giving Us

Part 4

November 24, 2024

For this series, the Bible reminds us of the many things that God has done for us, from the Old Testament to the New. The Bible tells us we were created in God's image and likeness with free will for relationship.

In **Psalms 8:3-4 ESV**: *“When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?”* King David praises the Lord for granting humans a superior position in His creation.

When we review what the Lord has done for us, is there room to complain? What message would we send to the Lord if we were to complain? Today, these three verses alone in our Scripture text will keep you in the center of God's will until Christ's return if you apply them.

Scripture Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 ESV **16** rejoice always, **17** pray without ceasing, **18** give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ for you.

VERSE 16 Rejoice Always

Where can I find a resource that gives me total confidence and joy? Given the many situations impacting my life, is it realistic to believe I can always rejoice? To **Rejoice Always** requires a relationship with someone or something with infinite knowledge. Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share? Do you know anyone like that? Do you know someone who will bear and forbear with you in your struggles and lift you up? Who is He? Who is He?

The more time you spend with Him in your heart, the more your view of life changes when things happen to you. Therefore, you are learning to focus on him, not yourself or your circumstances. The Holy Spirit within you helps you to practice unconditional forgiveness, allowing you to “**rejoice always.**”

Believers should be joyful because as we walk in the spirit, God works in us to will and to do His good pleasure. When was the last time you spent time with other believers praying together? **Prayer is the fuel that ignites the power in your life.**

VERSE 17 *Pray without ceasing*

Prayerlessness is like having a cell phone without Wi-Fi or Blue Tooth; you carry it with you but are out of touch. Prayer keeps your heart centered on doing God's will. You are continuously checking in... "Lord, help me!" "Jesus, have your way with me!" "Lord, give me what to say!" "Lord, keep me moving forward." "Forgive me, Jesus, for thinking like that." "Fill me, Lord, with your Spirit." "Forgive her, Lord, for assuming." "Lord, give me the words to tell them."

To pray without ceasing is to allow the Lord to be the center of your life. You are mindful of His presence and say and do things pleasing to Him. You sweetly give Him thanks with the fruit of your lips. You praise in response to His blessings and are not ashamed of being identified as a follower.

These conversations should be commonplace for every Spirit-filled believer. So, the key to rejoicing always is to pray continually: to always lean on God and call to him repeatedly and often. Jesus is our model!

VERSE 18: Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God concerning you.

Sometimes, God ordains adversity and prosperity to show us where we are in our journey and help us realign ourselves with His purpose. For my beloved, we were bought with a price and we are to glorify HIM!

The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Church of Thessalonica, knew a lot about... when I am weak, He is strong... "I can do all things through Christ that strengthens men." "Greater is He within me than's in the world." "All things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose." "Eye has not seen, nor ears heard, the things that God has prepared for those who love him."

Applications:

When you know that God is for you, it changes your outlook on life

When you are thankful, it does not matter how others view your circumstances.