

November 26, 2021

1 Thess. 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (NIV)

Again, during this season of Thanksgiving, I think it is important to look at who we are to be thankful to and for what He has done for us. Paul tells us that we are to rejoice always. The Greek word literally means continuously. We should be in a constant state of rejoicing. He also reminded the church at Philippi of the same thing in **Phil. 4:4 Rejoice in the LORD always. I will say it again: Rejoice!** And again in **4:12-13 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all things through Him Who give me strength. (NIV)**

And, what allows us to be in this constant state of rejoicing is to be in a continual state of prayer. Now many people see prayer as a certain action of bowing in solemn meditation for certain periods of time, but Paul sees it as a continual state of communication with the Father. Many people want to communicate by texting or phone, but then end the call or stop the text. The LORD wants us to have an open line of communication with Him all the time. Never hang up. Keep your eyes and hearts fixed on Him.

And lastly, Paul writes to give thanks in all circumstances because we know that in every situation the LORD is working all things together for our good. In the hard times and in the easy ones, He is at work. We need to thank Him for everything because we trust Him. This is the essence of the will of God. It was fleshed out through Christ Jesus, Who took the penalty of our sins upon Himself so that we could be set free. Can I get an Amen?

Dear LORD, we know that in all things, You are working for our good. We should always be rejoicing. We should always be praying. We should always be giving thanks in any and every situation. Help us do so LORD. In Jesus Name, Amen