

April 7, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

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)*

What is the LORD's will for you? Do you know? I'm not talking about your career or even your ministry, but I'm talking about God's will for you. Paul spells it out in three profound and yet very simple phrases. First of all, we are to *rejoice always*. Not just when things are going our way. Not just when we are feeling okay or have been given a bonus. We are to rejoice 24/7. Now you might be wondering how that is even possible. It all depends on your perspective. Do you see things from your own human vantage point; or do you see them from the LORD's perspective. This is true wisdom: seeing things as the LORD does. When we do this, we will be able to rejoice in every situation.

Secondly, we are to *pray continually*. In other words, we are to keep our communication open with the LORD. We are to never shut Him off or turn our backs to Him. We are to be continually listening because He is always speaking. We must be still and know that He is God. We must divert our attention away from all of the enticements of this world and focus on the path that He has set for us.

Lastly, we are to *give thanks*. Not just for the good things or the fun things, but for every circumstance that He leads us into and through. We often thank Him for our victories but not our battles. We thank Him for our blessings, but not our trials. We are to count it all joy when we face those trials because He is molding us into the likeness of His Son. Thank Him for all things, in all things and through all things. It is in this process that we will experience His life and not just our own.

Dear LORD, help us to live in Your presence and peace. We need to be a rejoicing people and not grumbling people. We need to let the joy of the LORD reign in us. Help us LORD to see things the way You do. In Jesus Name, Amen