

Home Group Helps

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Living in the Light of His Return: Three Ways in Which We Fulfill God's Will

¹⁶ Rejoice always; ¹⁷ pray without ceasing; ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus (v.18b):

I. Joy (v.16) – ¹⁶ Rejoice always;

1. **Joy commanded and Expected**
2. **Joy's Source**
3. **Joy Always**
4. **Joy Modeled**

II. Prayer (v.17) – ¹⁷ pray without ceasing;

Inhibitors to effective prayer:

1. **Sin**
2. **Dishonor**
3. **Spiritual Compromise**
4. **Lack of Reverence**

III. Thanksgiving (v.18a) – ¹⁸ in everything give thanks;

1. Launching Question(s):

- Can you give an example of a believer that served as an excellent model for you in the past? How did they do so?

2. Observation Question(s):

- What makes the virtues of joy, prayer, and thanksgiving so important that Paul concludes this letter with commands to practice them?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- Paul commands us to “rejoice always” (v.16)
- Knowing what you do about the truth claims of Christianity, how is it possible to “rejoice always?”
- Paul commands us to “pray without ceasing.”
- What does he mean by this command?
- Paul commands us “in everything give thanks.”
- How is this possible?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- Consider and highlight the various petitions of the Lord's Prayer: *Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*
- How might this be a good guide for your prayer?
- What are some inhibitors of prayer?

5. Application Question(s):

- Scripture tells us that both Enoch and Noah, "walked with God" (Gen. 5:24; 6:9). How can you do so by applying these three commands this week?

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