

Rejoice Always!

How Prayer and Thanksgiving Help Us Find Joy Everyday!

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

^{NKJ} **1 Thes 5:16-18** ¹⁶“REJOICE ALWAYS, ¹⁷PRAY WITHOUT CEASING, ¹⁸IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS; FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS FOR YOU.”

^{BGT} **1 Thes 5:16-18** ¹⁶Πάντοτε χαίρετε, ¹⁷ἀδιαλείπτως προσεύχεσθε, ¹⁸ἐν παντὶ εὐχαριστεῖτε τοῦτο γὰρ θέλημα θεοῦ ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ εἰς ὑμᾶς.

HOW TO FIND JOY EVERYDAY

I. Realize that _____ is _____ you

If the Bible commands me to rejoice, does that mean I have to work myself up into a state of giddiness all the time? What does the Bible mean by “rejoice”?

DEFINING REJOICE:

Often in Scripture *rejoice* has an object:

People are told either to *rejoice* in something (**Luke 10:20**), or *rejoice upon* or *at* something (**Luke 1:14**), or there is reason given as to why one should *rejoice* (**Matthew 5:12**).

However, **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** doesn't list an object. Why are we to *rejoice always*? Let's throw a rope around the definition of the Greek word for *rejoice*:

χαίρω, *charo* = to rejoice, be glad

χαρά, *chara* = state of _____, or _____.

^{NKJ} **1 Thessalonians 2:19** “For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Is it* not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?”

χάρις, *charis* = _____, that which _____.

^{NKJ} **1 Thessalonians 1:1** “Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

χαρίζομαι, *charizomai* = to _____, to show _____ or _____ to

^{NKJ} **Phil 2:9** “Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,”

χάριν, *charin* = for the _____ of, on _____ of

^{NKJ} **Titus 1:5** “For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you –”

Some of these are used to translate the OT equivalent: חַן, *chan* = _____.

^{NKJ} **Genesis 39:3** “And his master saw that the LORD *was* with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand. ⁴ So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all *that* he had he put under his authority.”

The same Greek stem survives in English words like _____m, _____ity, and _____isma.

WHY CAN WE REJOICE? Because God _____ us! [He sees us as _____!]

How do we know He favors us? Because he _____ His _____ for us.

^{NKJ} **Romans 8:32** “He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also **freely give** us all things?” **χαρίσεται**

How have we found favor in his eyes? Through the shed _____ of _____.

WE CAN REJOICE ALWAYS BECAUSE _____ IS FOR _____.

^{NKJ} **Romans 8:31** “What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us?”

Know that God is for YOU

Not (necessarily) for your _____ (We say, “God _____ my _____.”)

Not (necessarily) for your _____ (Paul was “always rejoicing” despite his sufferings, **2 Cor 6:4-10**)

But for your best! → That is what grants _____.

II. Keep on _____ the _____ of _____.

Unlike the rest of the commands in **1 Thes 5**, the three in vv.16-18 contain modifiers signifying that they are to be continually obeyed. The adverb connected with *praying* comes from a word that means there should be no

_____ off, no _____, no _____. Paul uses its opposite twice in **Titus 1:5**.

^{NKJ} **Titus 1:5** "For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you –"

The second and third "constant" commands expand on the first, helping us to know how we can *rejoice always*.

HOW CAN PRAYING WITHOUT CEASING HELP US TO REJOICE ALWAYS?

A common model for prayer presents four components that we might pray every time:

A _____, _____ and Praise Him, make His Name _____.

C _____, Ask for _____ and know that He is faithful and just to _____.

T _____, _____ Him for His many gifts and blessings

S _____. Let your "_____ be made known" to the One Who "shall supply all your need" (**Philippians 4:4-7,19**)

Prayer highlights our _____ on God.

If we keep coming back to prayer, if throughout our day we continue our conversation with God, won't that help us to keep coming back to our Source of Joy?

Since we know that God is _____, it should be easy for us to keep coming to Him in _____, because we know what kind of listener He is, One who gives _____ and _____.

^{NKJ} **Hebrews 4:16** "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

III. Acknowledge God's _____ to you

CAN A CONTINUAL ATTITUDE OF ATTITUDE OF THANKSGIVING HELP US TO REJOICE ALWAYS?

Give thanks is one word in the Greek, *εὐχαριστεῖτε*, *eucharisteite*, which means, literally, _____ - _____.

A person who has been graced, who has been given much, should find it easy to say, "Thank you."

How about you?

Scripture points out many things for which we should be thankful:

THANK GOD for the _____ He gives

εὐχαριστέω is often a prayer of thanks before a meal, i.e. saying, "_____"

^{NKJ} **Mark 8:6** "So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. And He took the seven loaves and gave thanks, broke *them* and gave *them* to His disciples to set before *them*; and they set *them* before the multitude."

^{NKJ} **Acts 27:35** And when he (Paul) had said these things, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all; and when he had broken *it* he began to eat.

THANK GOD for the _____ He provides

^{NKJ} **Luke 17:16** "and fell down on *his* face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan."

THANK GOD for the _____ He has placed in your life

^{NKJ} **1 Thessalonians 1:2** "We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, ³ remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,"

^{NKJ} **Acts 28:15** "And from there, when the brethren heard about us, they came to meet us as far as Appii Forum and Three Inns. When Paul saw them, he **thanked** God and took courage."

^{NKJ} **1 Thessalonians 3:9** "For what **thanks** can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God,"

THANK GOD for _____ He _____.

^{NKJ} **Revelation 11:17** "saying: 'We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.'"

GOD'S "CONSTANT" COMMANDS GO HAND IN HAND, HELPING US TO FIND HIS JOY EVERYDAY.

God's will for you is to be always _____, _____, and _____!

Don't let Thanksgiving be a once a year event!