

Rejoice Always; Pray Without Ceasing; in Everything Give Thanks



11/22/20

Question #1 What are we to do always without ceasing in every situation?

1 Thessalonians 5:16 Rejoice always;

¹⁷ pray without ceasing;

¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

²⁰ always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

Question #2 For what do we rejoice always, pray without ceasing and in every situation give thanks? Seven suggestions:

1. Peace with God

Romans 5:1 Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

² through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

³ And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;

⁴ and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;

⁵ and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

⁶ For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

How to experience the peace we have:

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

⁵ Let your forbearing *spirit* be known to all men. The Lord is near.

⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

2. God uses adversity for good

Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren;

³⁰ and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

3. Nothing can separate us from God's love

Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶ Just as it is written, "For Thy sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

4. We will experience the surpassing riches of God's grace forever

Ephesians 2:4 God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places*, in Christ Jesus,

⁷ in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 10:32 remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings,

³³ partly, by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated.

³⁴ For you showed sympathy to the prisoners, and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and an abiding one. (This is a theme in chapter 11. See 11:13-16)

Hebrews 12:28 since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;

Hebrews 13:12 Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate.

¹³ Hence, let us go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach.

¹⁴ For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking *the city* which is to come.

¹⁵ Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

5. We possess the riches of God's truth

Colossians 3:15 let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

6. God has blessed us with an eternal family

Philippians 1:3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,

⁴ always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all,

⁵ in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now.

⁶ *For I am* confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷ For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me.

⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more

7. God strengthens us for contentment (freedom from comparison and complaining)

Philippians 4:11 ...I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.

¹² I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.

¹³ I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

With your family, friends or life group please, continue this list of blessings to contemplate when life gets tough and memorize 1Thessalonians 5:16-18.

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