

Part 4: Holy Habits that Fan the Flame

1 Thessalonians 5:16-19

Be joyful always; 17 pray continually; 18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 19 Do not put out the Spirit's fire;

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Message notes:

_____ are impossible to carry out without depending on the Holy Spirit.

Paul is pulling us from being trapped into obsessing about the _____.

This is what it means to be on _____ for God: rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in everything.

If you don't have a _____ heart, it is one of the best evidences that your flame has dwindled.

You have the choice to be bitter on purgatory road or to be _____ on purgatory road.

If you don't _____ continually, you'll never be joyful always.

You'll never keep your fire _____ if you don't have an ongoing dialogue with Jesus. You pray, but you also listen.

Being _____ for what God has done is good, but being grateful for what God is going to do is even better.

Pray _____.

Additional notes:

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Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Jamie discussed how rejoicing always is a key habit for keeping your flame for God burning bright, and that it is a choice we make regardless of our circumstances. Can you think of a recent situation where you struggled to find joy? How could adopting the attitude of rejoicing have changed your perspective?
2. Prayer is described as essential for maintaining joy, as it builds a relationship with God and helps keep our focus on Him. How can you incorporate more prayer into your daily routine to foster a deeper connection with God and improve your outlook on life?
3. The message emphasized that being grateful, even in tough times, helps to cultivate a positive attitude and a stronger faith. Can you identify three things you are thankful for right now, even if you're facing challenges? How does recognizing these help shift your mood?
4. Pastor Jamie shared about his personal experience of frustration on "Purgatory Road" and emphasized the choice between being bitter or better in difficult situations. Think of a situation that frustrates you. How can you actively change your reaction to that situation to reflect joy and gratitude?
5. As we've discussed these "holy habits" of rejoicing, praying, and giving thanks, what specific habit could you focus on developing this summer to help you grow spiritually? How will you measure your progress?

Ministry Time:

Reflect on your conversations this week. Have you spent more time complaining or praying? Pray for anyone who wants more of these "holy habits" in their life. Chose one of the three habits to specifically pray for.

The message stressed the importance of gratitude, even in difficult situations. Pray for anyone who is struggling to see hope and gratitude in the midst of these difficult situations.