



**“Communion with God”
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

Introduction

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - “¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

John Piper: “Communion assumes that God comes to us in love & that we respond joyfully to the beauty of his perfections & the offer of his fellowship.”

I. Command for Communion with God

- a. Obedience is an act of worship –

(John 14:15) “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

II. Challenge for Communion with God

(1 Thess. 5:5a) “For you are all children of light, children of the day...”

- a. Always...Never...In Everything...IMPOSSIBLE? –

(1 Cor. 1:30a) “And because of him you are in Christ Jesus...”

III. Concepts of Communion with God

- a. Concept #1 – Always Rejoice (v. 16)

(Rom. 8:18) “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

- b. Concept #2 – Never Stop Praying (v. 17)

A.C.T.S. Prayer Model

Acknowledgement – recognizing who God is

Confession – need of forgiveness

Thanksgiving – expression of gratitude for countless things

Supplication – petition, request, appeal

c. Concept #3 – In Everything Give Thanks (v. 18)

(Eph. 5:20) “Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

(Rom. 8:28) “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

IV. **Developing Conduct for Communion with God**

a. Conduct for Rejoicing Always – Daily focus on the riches God has freely given in Christ.

(Ephesians 1:11-14) “¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”

b. Conduct for Praying without Ceasing – Send up prayers throughout the day.

(Nehemiah 2:4-5) “⁴Then the king said to me, “What are you requesting?” So I prayed to the God of heaven. ⁵And I said to the king,”

c. Conduct for Giving Thanks in Everything – Create a heart that trusts God.

(Exodus 15:22-24) “²²Then Moses made Israel set out from the Red Sea, and they went into the wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the wilderness and found no water. ²³When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter; therefore it was named Marah. ²⁴And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?”

Conclusion: In response to God’s prompting, we joyfully work toward making progress in obeying these commands because... “for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 5:18b)

Discussion Questions:

1. How has your communion with God been lately?
2. What are some things that can make communion with God challenging?
3. Have you felt you are a better reflection of God after time with Him? How?
4. Which command/concept is easiest for you to obey? Which is the most difficult?