

Title: Unwrapped: Gift of Joy Scripture: 1 Thes. 5:16-18 Date: 12172017 Bible Version: NKJV

BOTTOM LINE: God has given us the gift of Joy through Christ Jesus.

Vs. 16 Rejoice - Be exceedingly glad.

Not only rejoicing in happy things, but in sorrows also.- David Guzik

Because of our standing before God through Christ Jesus, we have a valid reason for joy in our lives.

Always - Without ceasing.

As believers, we have permission to rejoice always.

The religion of Christ was intended to remove misery.- Adam Clarke

Do not despise His operations, either yourselves or in your brethren. - Charles Spurgeon

Vs. 17

Without ceasing - As believers we are to be praying without ceasing. We are 100% dependent upon God for everything.

Some of us live lives that are devoid of prayer to God. We live our lives as if God does not matter or is not a part of it.

All good comes into the soul by this door, all true treasure by this merchant's ship.- John Trapp

You can't experience joy in your life apart from a relationship with God the Father. You can't experience a relationship with God the Father apart from accepting the gift of Jesus.

Vs. 18

In everything give thanks - Notice that we are give thanks IN everything not for everything.

Prosperity and adversity will be equally helpful to us.-Adam Clarke

[Rom 8:28 NKJV] And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to [His] purpose.

This is the will of God - God's will is for us to be thankful. This presupposes that we have something to be thankful for.

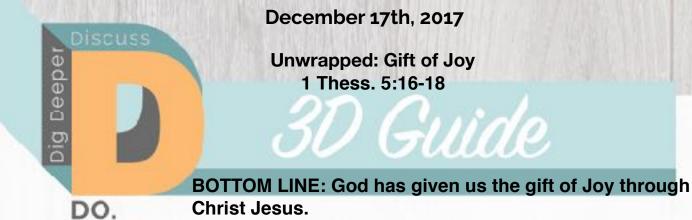
God's will for our lives:

- 1. Rejoice always.
- 2. Pray without ceasing.
- 3. In everything give thanks.

Every occurrence in life (whether good or bad) is an occurrence that we can profit from.

Jesus-Others-Yourself.

The Christian can rejoice always because their joy isn't based in circumstances, but in God. Circumstances change, but God doesn't. -David Guizik



- 1. What does this study reveal to you about God?
- 2. What does this study reveal to you about yourself?
- 3. Based on this, what changes do you need to make?
- 4. What is your prayer for today?



DISCUSS.

- 1. It's one thing to talk about being joy filled but it's another thing to actually live it. Why is it so difficult sometimes to life our lies in a joy-filled manner?
- 2. If we are honest, there are times when we do not want to rejoice in a situation. How do we reconcile this with Vs. 16?
- 3. Looking at this block of scripture we can see that it's God's will for us to : Discuss how this practically works out in our lives.
 - a. Rejoice always
 - b. Pray without ceasing.
 - c. Give thanks.

DO.

Anytime you read God's word you have to put things into perspective. You also have to realize that the terms, not words, have meanings. As a group re-read the scriptures that was studied. Try a the Amplified Version and compare that to the NJKV, NIV, ESV, or NASB. Pick a few words and have a group member look that word up on <u>blueletterbible.com</u> or with their app.



Parents &	Kids
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TAKEHOME

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DATE: December 17rd, 2017

- **Scripture**: From Adam and Eve to Jesus' Birth Luke 2: 5 - 7
- 1. True or False: Because of our sin, we can't be friends with God. (True)
- 2. What do we need in order to fix our friendship with God? (We Need A Savior!)
- 3. Who did the prophet Micah say that God was going to send to be our Savior? (His Son Jesus)
- 4. True or False: Mary's special baby was a professional basketball player. (False; Mary's special baby was God's Son, Jesus)
- 5. Did Jesus come as a fancy king riding on a horse? (No) How did Jesus come to the world? (As a baby)
- 6. Why did Jesus come as a baby? (Because no one would be afraid of a baby)

7. Do you know why Jesus is able to be our Savior? (Jesus came and lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins a nd then rose three days later)

Memory Verse: "God sent His Son to be the Savior of the world. We saw His Son and are now telling others about Him."- 1 John 4:14