

REJOICE
PRAY
THANKS
GIVE
always
continuously
in all circumstances

What's your favorite movie trilogy?

This morning I want to encourage us to commit to live a trilogy recorded in 1Thessalonians 5:16-18.

"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus".

Read Acts 17:1-13

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

REJOICE ALWAYS, PRAY CONSTANTLY, GIVE THANKS IN EVERYTHING.

REJOICE ALWAYS

Rejoice means to be glad, be joyful, be delighted. The command is to continually or always rejoice.

Rejoicing always is not ____.

Paul's command is even more surprising in view of the suffering they had already endured...
1 Thessalonians 1:6 "And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, 7so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

1 Thessalonians 2:14 "For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews, 15who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out, and displease God and oppose all mankind"

1 Thessalonians 3:1-5 "1Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, 2and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, 3that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. 4For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know. 5For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain."

Rejoicing always is a _____ to maintain our focus.

The ability to rejoice is directly connected to our relationship with Jesus.

John 15:11 "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

PRAY CONTINUALLY

Why do you pray?

Our purpose often dictates our practice.

The word that is used for prayer is the most general term which incorporates all kinds of prayer. Thanksgiving, intercession, petitions, etc.

Praying continually refers more to an _____ than an activity.

Praying continually refers more to _____ than conversation.

Prayer is not an exercise, it is the life of the saint. Oswald Chambers

GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES

Giving thanks is the quality of being grateful.

Giving thanks ___ everything is not the same as giving thanks ___ everything.

Ruth Bell Graham - We can't always give thanks FOR everything, but we can always give thanks IN everything.

Giving thanks is a sign that we _____ God.

Warren Wiersbe - An attitude of gratitude is a wonderful weapon against unbelief, disobedience, a hard heart, and a bitter spirit.

THIS IS GOD'S WILL FOR OUR LIVES IN CHRIST JESUS

We cannot give thanks to God from the heart unless we are submissive to His sovereign hand in our circumstances and we believe that He is working even our trials together for our ultimate good.
(Steve Cole)