

Devotion 1: You CAN Have JOY

1 Thessalonians 1:6–10 (ESV) *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, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia... For they themselves report... how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven... Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.*

The Thessalonian believers faced real affliction—persecution, pressure, uncertainty—yet they received God’s Word with the joy of the Holy Spirit (v. 6). This wasn’t a circumstantial happiness. It was supernatural joy that broke through hardship and turned them into living examples to others.

Scripture tells us, “The joy of the Lord is your strength” (Nehemiah 8:10). When the Holy Spirit plants joy in us, it becomes fuel for perseverance, witness, and worship.

This Passage from 1Thessalonians show us five beautiful sources of this joy:

- The Holy Spirit Himself, who gives joy even in affliction
- The Word of God, which they received and cherished
- Being a godly example to other believers
- Turning from idols to serve the living God
- The hope of salvation—Jesus who delivers us

You can have this joy. It’s not dependent on easy days; it flows from God’s presence and promises.

During this Seek Week, let’s invite the Holy Spirit to stir this joy in us afresh. Pray using the pattern: “He is Worthy” (Thankfulness and worship) and “We are Needy” (joyful hearts, Desire for the Word, ability to love others).

PRAY

HE IS WORTHY:

Lord, thank you for _____

(Examples to fill in: The Holy Spirit, Your Word, faithful friends, your church, your family, your work, your salvation, etc.)

WE ARE NEEDY:

As you consider this passage today, here are 5 ways you can **PRAY** for **JOY** that you need as you **SEEK** God today.

- Your Spirit—fill me fresh today, and let Your joy overflow in my heart.
- Give me a deep hunger for Your Word. Let it be living water to my thirsty soul, and let joy rise as You speak to me through Scripture.
- Show me who needs to see You in my life. Give me grace and favor to reflect Your character to _____ (name them). Fill me with joy as I live as Your example.
- Holy Spirit, reveal any idols that have stolen my attention and worship. I confess _____ (name it). Turn my heart fully back to You, the one true God, and restore joy through my repentance.
- Finally, Lord, remind me of the wonder of my salvation. Help me slow down, quiet the noise, and savor the grace that saved me. Thank You for Jesus, who delivers me. Thank You for the joy of my salvation. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Go forward today knowing: **You CAN have JOY**—because the same Holy Spirit who filled the Thessalonians is at work in you.