

On the Corner Fringe: Rejoice Always, Pray Without Ceasing, and in Everything Give Thanks

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The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://cornerfringe.com/media/j8yvt6d/otcf-rejoice-always-pray-without-ceasing-and-in-everything-give-thanks>

*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is **not verbatim**. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document be printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliteration into the English alphabet. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.

The Arsenal of Faith: Rejoice, Pray, and Give Thanks

This transcript is of a message from **Pastor Daniel Joseph** of **Corner Fringe Ministries** where he explores the spiritual depth of Paul's final exhortations to the Thessalonians regarding **joy, prayer, and gratitude**. Daniel emphasizes that maintaining a **spirit of rejoicing** is possible even during hardship because it is rooted in the reality of the resurrection rather than temporary circumstances. He argues that **unceasing prayer** serves as a vital defensive tool that **prevents spiritual decline** and **protects the heart** from the **influence of adversaries**. Furthermore, Daniel illustrates that **giving thanks** functions as a form of spiritual warfare, drawing parallels to how King Jehoshaphat used praise to secure divine victory. Ultimately, he suggests that replacing complaints with **worship and thanksgiving** empowers believers to overcome life's tribulations and live victoriously.

Welcome, everyone. I'm Daniel Joseph, and you're "*On The Corner Fringe*." Today I want to share with you a little bit of Paul's closing statement to the Thessalonians in his first epistle to them. This is actually a compilation of three verses, and it's quite infamous, if you will. Many sermons have been written based upon these verses collectively, and it goes like this (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18): **Rejoice always,¹⁷ pray without ceasing,¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**



And so, I mean, there have been countless sermons written on this and commentaries written on Paul's closing statement to the Thessalonians. It's what I would call very, very powerful. A game changer in the sense that if we just apply these things that he is speaking to us, we're going to live incredible lives. We're going to live victoriously in Him. So, what I want to do is to briefly go through this, and hopefully you will get something out of this that is very meaningful, something that you can apply to your life, something that can challenge your thinking.

With that said, let's take a look at this: 1 Thessalonians 5:16 begins with "Rejoice always." In Greek, this word for rejoice is "*chairete*" (χαίρετε). It's interesting because the first time we find Yeshua using this term in the New Testament is in the context of persecution, where He says in Matthew 5:11, "**Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.**" And the very next thing He says is "*chairete*," or ¹² **Rejoice ... for great is your reward in heaven.**

Now, the last time we find Yeshua using this term is after His resurrection. Remember then in Matthew 28 that the women went to the tomb, and they were looking to visit Him only to find an angel, and obviously the stone rolled away, and Yeshua isn't there. Basically, the angel looks at them and asks, "Why are you looking for Him? He is risen. He's not here." But go tell the disciples quickly; run, and go tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead. I mean, just an incredible experience. Well, these women who had gone to the tomb did just that. They turned and immediately ran to the disciples to tell them, "Hey, He has risen." And here's what's so incredible: Yeshua meets them on the way, and the word He says to them is just one word: "*chairete*." It is that word (Matthew 28:9), "**Rejoice!**"

Think about the meaning of that and the way Yeshua uses this term upon His resurrection. I mean, that carries a lot of weight for me. When we're paying attention, even in the context of persecution, we have so much to rejoice over. And the reason is, as you think of John 16:33. He says, "**... In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer ...**" In other words, another way to say this is "Rejoice, because **I have overcome the world.**" And we know that He has overcome the world through His resurrection. So, rejoicing always, we always have something to rejoice about regardless of our situation. Why? Because He's on the throne. Our God is not dead. He's alive.

Job 19:25—*Va'ani yada'ti go'ali chai* (וְאֲנִי יָדַעְתִּי גֹאֲלִי חַי). "**For I know that my Redeemer lives.**" We can never lose focus on that. When we lose focus on that reality, that's when discouragement sets in. That's when doubt begins to rule, when fear begins to ruin our lives, when that reality is not present within our hearts. And so, we need this. We have cause to rejoice.

Paul's closing statement of the Thessalonians is, at least in my opinion, probably one of his most powerful closings out of the entire New Testament. It carries such depth, such weight. His words are, as he himself even testifies to in 2 Corinthians 10:10— "**For his letters,** *they say,* **are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak.**" His letters are weighty. His bodily presence is weak, but his letters are weighty. And man, you feel it in his closing statement in 1 Thessalonians, Chapter 5.

Paul goes on to say in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17, "**Rejoice always,**" and then he says, ¹⁷ "**pray without ceasing.**" Remember Yeshua's words in Matthew 26:41. He said to Peter, "**Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation.**" In other words, and I've said this many times, the moment we stop meditating, the moment we stop speaking to the Lord, that we stop praising Him, that allows the adversary to work in our lives. That allows an adversary to come in and take our attention, to take our heart to a different place. And so, we're always to be meditating and praying. We are to pray without ceasing. We're to pray and not lose heart. Or to pray lest we **enter into temptation.**

And so, prayer is to be the most fundamental principle that we live by. It should be the thing that we are the most accustomed to. And yet, how is it today that it's the thing that we embrace the least? How is that? How is that possible? This shows that you can measure a man's life; you can measure a man's faith; you can measure a man's relationship by his prayer life. Absolutely, fundamentally, we can do this.

And I love what Ravenhill said, "A sinning man will stop praying, and a praying man will stop sinning." There's so much truth to that.



Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing," and then I love what he said next. He says, ¹⁸ "In everything give thanks..." And this is kind of a mirror, if you will, to that of rejoicing always. But he says, "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." This is the will. God's will, for our life, is that we are constantly having His praise in our mouths. That we're constantly giving Him thanksgiving.

Now, I want to share something with you that is so powerful. What Paul is instructing here, yes, it is absolutely about worship, but he's giving us power. Paul is equipping the saints to be literally armed to the teeth with total power, to be in a state where they can actually have victory, and to conquer in the trials and tribulations. What do I mean by that statement, especially in the context of what we just read, "in everything give thanks"?

Well, what we know is that when you go back to 2 Chronicles, Chapter 20, the Ammonites and the Moabites are coming up against Jehoshaphat, and they're coming in; they're pressing in, and there's no way he's going to win this war on his own. He is terrified. And it's amazing how Jehoshaphat responds. He responds in prayer, and he responds in fasting and calling upon the one true God and reminding, in his prayer, God, who He is, that He is the God in heaven.

It's an awesome thing that the Lord responds to him, to him in his broken heart, to his faith, to fasting, and to praying. He responds to him and says in 2 Chronicles 20:17, "You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem! Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you." Stand still and see the salvation of God. You're not going to need to fight in this battle because the battle is mine.

And here's what happened. Jehoshaphat went out to battle against them. But we're told he put the singers first. This is what he does: he puts the singers first in warfare. Something totally insane. I mean, no wars that are fought today have men walking around singing a song. These people would look absolutely out of their minds by doing this. But this is what Jehoshaphat does because the battle is the Lord's.

And so, he puts these singers first, and I want to share the actual passage with you, or just a part of it. And this is what we read: 2 Chronicles 20:21—**And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: “Praise the LORD, For His mercy endures forever”** (emphasis added).



In Hebrew it is *Hodu la-Adonai ki le'olam chasdo* (הודו ליהוה כי לעולם חסדו). And *hodu* is literally “give thanks.” That would actually be a better rendering; a more hyperliteral rendering in English would be “Give thanks to **the LORD, for His mercy endures forever.**”

Here they went up against the adversary. They're going up against adversaries out for blood. They're out to kill them, to destroy them. And how Israel destroys their adversary is by opening their mouth and praising the Lord, opening their lips and saying, “*Hodu la-Adonai ki le'olam chasdo.*” Give thanks to **the LORD, for His mercy endures forever.** If we want to walk in power and destroy our adversaries, this is what we should have on our lips.

As you look at what Paul is saying, and there's more to what he says, you can read the rest for yourself in 1 Thessalonians, Chapter 5, his closing statement. Paul is equipping us for war. He's equipping us to win. He's given us the tools necessary to win this war. And so, we just need to apply these things.

You know, what is the opposite of rejoicing over you? What is the opposite of giving praise, of giving thanks to the Lord? The opposite is complaining, speaking death out of our mouths. If you go back to the book of Numbers, you can find out how that worked for Israel. They actually fell into destruction. They were destroyed. Their corpses rotted in the wilderness because they kept complaining. You know, life and death are in the power of the tongue. We need to be very, very careful that, in all things, we give thanks.

Bless you. Have a great week.

3 Pillars of a Victorious Life: Living the Will of God

Based on Paul's closing statement in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, these three commands are described as "game-changers." When applied, they move a believer from a state of fear and defeat to a life of victory and power.

Rejoice Always (Chairete)

Focus on the reality that our Redeemer lives, regardless of current persecution or tribulation.



Pray Without Ceasing

Continuous prayer acts as a guard, preventing the adversary from taking your heart to a different place.



Give Thanks in Everything (Hodu)

A hyper-literal rendering of "Hodu" means giving thanks is an active choice in all circumstances.



The Power of Praise in Warfare



Praise as a Weapon of War

King Jehoshaphat won the battle by putting singers and thanksgivers at the front of the army.



Continuous Praise (Jehoshaphat)

The LORD fights the battle; Victory without fighting.

Constant Complaining (Israel in Wilderness)

Destruction; Corpses rotted in the wilderness.



The Measure of a Man

A person's faith and relationship with God can be measured by the consistency of their prayer life.

Ceaseless Prayer (1 Thess. 5)

Preservation of the heart; Protection from temptation.