



HOME FAMILY BIBLE STUDY



TIP: Remember to begin and end with prayer, as well as plant your seed offering. It may be helpful to have someone read the scriptures in the King James Version (KJV) and another the Amplified (AMP) version for better understanding.

Date: April 17, 2024

Topic: Rejoice, Pray Without Ceasing, & Give Thanks

Introduction: We are living in a world where we, God's people, are faced with many challenges today, as never before. Mainly because we are not of this world. As the old saying goes, "There is always *something* going on." Unfortunately, this stands to be true in a sense because we are living in a fallen world. However, as the body of Christ regardless of whatever is happening around us, the Bible says that it is God's will, according to I Thessalonians 5, that we too have *some things* going on in our lives as well. These things are to rejoice, pray without ceasing, and give thanks.



Read: I Thessalonians 5:16-18, James 1:2-4, Hebrews 13:15



Think & Discuss:

- **1 Thess. 5:16-18** tells you to *rejoice always, pray without ceasing and in everything give thanks*. Why is it important to keep these 3 things going on in your life especially during times of adversity or hardship? Can you remember a specific situation in your life that was supposed to make you cry but instead you rejoiced? Discuss.
- **James 1:2-4 (AMP)** says that you should see everything that you are going through as pure joy because it produces spiritual maturity, inner peace and you will lack nothing. What can you do to ensure that you remain joyful so that you mature in Christ?
- **Ref. Hebrews 13:15.** Scripture tells to offer the sacrifice of praise, giving thanks to God which is the fruit of your lips. Sacrifice is an act of giving up something valued for the sake of something else regarded as more important or worthy. When you offer the sacrifice of praise, how does it change your perspective or shift your focus regarding your circumstances? Why is it important to "continually" offer the sacrifice of praise to the Lord?
- Read about Paul and Silas in **Acts 16:25-34.**



Takeaway: Paul and Silas did not let the shackles on their hands and feet, constrain their mouths. Through prayer and praise, they reached the portals of heaven and summoned the mighty power of God to act on their behalf. How is it, you may

ask, that Paul and Silas prayed and sang amidst unfavorable circumstances? It is because their confidence in the Lord was not based on superficial happiness or the absence of trials. Rather, it was built on the foundation of their faith that no matter what, God is *always* worthy to be praised and glorified. Be encouraged and remember no matter what comes your way, the *joy of the Lord is your strength!* Never stop rejoicing, praying, and giving thanks to the God of your salvation!

****Remember to share Christ with someone else.****