

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)

Circumstances

I have let circumstances get me down. I have not been joyful in every circumstance. Far from it. I have let circumstances cloud my vision and lose my focus. I have let circumstances steal my joy. I have let circumstances cause me to take my eyes off you. I have let all my thoughts and words and deeds be guided and directed by whatever circumstance I have found myself. Circumstances have caused me to lose my balance and send me off course. So often, I have lived under the circumstances of life rather than above them. **That's not good.** No, it's not. **How have gotten back on course?** There is one very positive thing about negative circumstances. **What's that?** Negative circumstances have always caused me to cry out to you. **Right away?** No, not right away. I wish I could say that I would start praying to you right away when circumstances have turned negative around me. Unfortunately, I have tried in vain to fight my own way out of negative circumstances. Sometimes, I have even had to reach rock bottom, when all my own efforts have not brought me through negative circumstances, before I have cried out to you in prayer. **I like it that you have tried to fight your way out of negative circumstances.** Why is that? **Your desire to fight and do battle against negative circumstances is good. Your choice of weapon to fight your way out of negative circumstances is all wrong however.** How so? **You will never win battles against negative circumstances with your own efforts. You must rely on me. You must choose the proper weapon with which to fight. Do you know what that weapon is?** Yes, after so many failures, I have finally learned that I can continually prayer prayers that will give me victory through circumstances. **Why is that?** As I pray to you, my eyes will be on you rather than on my circumstances. You will lead me through my circumstances. You will be my helper. You will be my strength. You will be my guide. I can hold on to you as you hold on to me through all the circumstances of life. **Yes, you can.** Yes, I will. **What will you have as I lead you through all the ups and downs and twists and turns of the circumstances of life?** I will have joy. **Why is that?** My relationship with you will grow deeper and become sweeter as I hold on to you and you hold on to me. **Yes, it will. Then you will become truly joyful, prayerful and thankful as you love, follow and serve me.** Yes, I will.

Lord, I have not always been joyful, prayerful and thankful. I'm sure that comes as no surprise to you. Help me to be continually joyful, prayerful and thankful. I know I have abundant reasons to be joyful, prayerful and thankful. You have blessed my life. Amen

God's Will *Joyful, Prayerful, Thankful*

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

NIV 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

God's Will *Joyful, Prayerful, Thankful*

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

ESV 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

God's Will *Joyful, Prayerful, Thankful*

Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

NLT 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

God's Will *Joyful, Prayerful, Thankful*

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

NKJV 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

God's Will *Joyful, Prayerful, Thankful*

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

NRSV 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

God's Will *Joyful, Prayerful, Thankful*

Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live.

MSG 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

God's Will *Joyful, Prayerful, Thankful*

Be happy [in your faith] *and* rejoice *and* be glad-hearted continually (always); Be unceasing in prayer [praying perseveringly]; Thank [God] in everything [no matter what the circumstances may be, be thankful and give thanks], for this is the will of God for you [who are] in Christ Jesus [the Revealer and Mediator of that will].

AMP 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

God's Will *Joyful, Prayerful, Thankful*

See that no one pays back evil for evil, but always try to do good to each other and to everyone else. Always be joyful. Always keep on praying. No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

TLB 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

God's Will *Joyful, Prayerful, Thankful*

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

NASB 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

God's Will *Joyful, Prayerful, Thankful*

Always be joyful. Pray continually, and give thanks whatever happens. That is what God wants for you in Christ Jesus.

NCV 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Joyful, Prayerful, Thankful

Year ____ Week ____ Day ____ Date ____

God's Will – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

In Context: Read 1 Thessalonians 5

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

Be | joyful always; | pray continually; | give thanks | in all | circumstances, | for | this is | God's will | for you | in Christ Jesus.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Praying The Scripture:

(What prayer from your heart will you write?)

Lord, I have not always been joyful, prayerful and thankful. I'm sure that comes as no surprise to you. Help me to be continually joyful, prayerful and thankful. I know I have abundant reasons to be joyful, prayerful and thankful. You have blessed my life. Amen

What It Means:

(What questions speak to your heart?) *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

What joy do you have in loving, following and serving Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord?

How are you developing the habit of praying continually through your day?

What are you persistently and passionately praying and asking God for right now?

What reasons do you have to be thankful for as a follower of Jesus Christ?

What are some specific things that you would like to thank God for right now?

How are you learning to give thanks in and through all the varied circumstances of life?

Why do you think it is God's will that you remain joyful, prayerful and thankful as you love, follow and serve Him?

Living It Out:

(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)

Make it your practice to be joyful, prayerful and thankful as you love, follow and serve the Lord.

Seeing It Happen:

(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)

Have faith that you have abundant reasons to be joyful, prayerful and thankful as you love, follow and serve the Lord.

Get Ready To Share:

(What can you share with others from your heart?)

Share with another person or your small group how you are joyful, prayerful, and thankful as a Christ follower.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you be continually joyful, prayerful and thankful as you love, follow and serve the Lord.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will be continually joyful, prayerful and thankful as I love, follow and serve you.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I be joyful, prayerful and thankful as I love, follow and serve you today.
