

Edgemont Bible Church
Pastor Al Osden
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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Intro:

XVI. The Sheep's Responsibility to the Great Shepherd – Part 1: Joyfulness, Prayerfulness, Thankfulness

A. The Exhortation to Joyfulness – vs 16

1. Every Christian should have a good Biblical understanding of Joy

a. Scripture is filled with mandates to have Joy in all situations

i. OT - Deut 12:18; Neh 8:10; Ps 2:11; 5:11; 32:11; 68:3; 100:2; 132:16; Isa 29:19; Joel 2:23-24; Hab 3:17-18;

ii. NT – Mt 5:10-12; Lk 6:22-23; 10:20; Jo 16:20-22;

b. Paul recognized the existence of negative emotions such as sorrow, distress – Acts 20:19,37-38; Ro 12:15; Phil 3:18

i. Christians need to learn to rejoice in spite of circumstances – 2 Co 6:10

ii. Such joy is possible b/c Biblical joy comes from God, not pleasant circumstances

– Phil 3:3; Ps 16:11; 68:3; Lk 2:10-11; 24:52; Acts 16:34; Ro 5:2,11; 1 Pet 1:8

- Supernatural joy is from the Holy Spirit, thus listed as one of the fruit of the Holy Spirit – Gal 5:22

2. Rejoice always - 2Co 6:10; Php 4:4

a. lit. at all times be rejoicing

b. comes from confidence in God's sovereign love and mighty power working on behalf of His own

c. proper perspective on Biblical Joy gives a number of reasons to rejoice

i. Appreciation of God's righteous character which He demonstrates even when bad things happen – Ps 28:7

ii. Appreciation for Christ' redemptive work which came from a gracious, loving, and merciful God

iii. Appreciation for the Holy Spirit's ministry on our behalf – Acts 10:44; Ro 14:17

iv. Because of the vast amount of spiritual blessings we possess – Eph 1:3-4; Phil 4:13; Col 2:9-14; 2 Pet 1:3

v. Appreciation for God's providence as He controls thing for our benefit – Ro 8:28-30; Jas 1:2-4

vi. Gratitude for the promise of future glory – Ps 16:8-11; Mt 5:12; Lk 10:20; 1 Co 1:7; Phil 1:18-21; 3:20; Jd 24

vii. Answered prayer – Ps 66:20; 116:1; 118:21; Jo 16:24

- viii. Appreciation for the gift of God's word – Col 3:16; Ps 19:7-11; 119:14, 111, 162; Jer 15:16
- ix. The privilege of genuine fellowship – 1 Th 3:9; 2 Tim 1:4; Phi7; 2 Jo 12
- x. Appreciation for the saving proclamation of the gospel – Acts 15:3; Phil 1:18

B. The Exhortation to Prayerfulness – vs 17

1. pray

- a. **proseuchomai** - to pray to God, supplicate, worship:--pray, make prayer.
- b. most common word used for prayer – Mt 6:5-6; Mk 11:24; Lk 5:16; 11:1-2; Acts 10:9; Ro 8:26; 1 Co 14:13-15; Eph 6:18; Col 1:9; 2 Th 3:1; Jas 5:13-14,16
- c. It include all aspects of prayer – Submission, confession, petition, intercession, praise, and thanksgiving

2. without ceasing,

- a. **adialeiptos** - uninterruptedly, without omission, constant, without ceasing.
- b. seen not as a perpetual act, but rather a way of life.

3. Jesus' Example

- a. As the Son of God, he was in constant communion with the Father
- b. NT examples – Mt 14:23; Mk 1:35; 6:46; Lk 9:18,28-29; Jo 6:15; 17:1-26
- c. At times, He prayed all night – Lk 21:37-38; Jo 8:1-2
- d. He prayed with prolonged intensity as seen in the garden – Mt 26:38-46; Lk 22:41, 44

4. The Church's Example

- a. Leading up to Pentecost – Acts 1:14
- b. Devoted themselves to prayer – Acts 2:42
- c. The apostles knew that they needed to devote themselves to prayer and the ministry of the word – Acts 6:4
- d. The Church also prayed for the release of Peter after the death of James – Acts 12:11-16

5. Paul's Example

- a. Prayed for the Thessalonians night and day – 3:10
- b. Many of Paul's epistles stress the importance of Prayer - Ro 12:12; 1 Co 7:5; Eph 6:18-19; Phil 4:6; Col 4:2; 2 Th 3:1; 1 Tim 2:8

6. Motivations for Prayer

- a. Desire to glorify God – Mt 6:9-10; Dan 9:4-19
- b. Desire for fellowship with God – Ps 42:1-2
- c. Desire for God to meet their needs – Mt 6:11
- d. Desire for wisdom to live in this world – Jas 1:5; Mt 6:13
- e. Desire for deliverance from trouble – Jonah 2:1-2
- f. Desire relief from fear and worry – Phil 4:6-7
- g. Gratitude for past blessings – Ps 44:1-4; Phil 1:3-5

- h. Desire to be free from guilt – Ps 32:5; 1 Jo 1:9
- i. Desire to see the lost saved – 1 Tim 2:1-4; Ro 10:1
- j. Desire for Spiritual Growth – Eph 1:15-19; 3:14-21; Col 1:9-12

C. The Exhortation to Thankfulness – vs 18

1. Ungratefulness

- a. is part of the unregenerate nature – Ro 1:21
- b. it is spiritually abnormal for Christians to be ungrateful
- c. it is disobedience to many scriptural mandates – Ro 8:28

2. in everything

- a. en panti – refers to all that occurs in life
- b. this takes away all excuses to be ungrateful

3. give thanks;

- a. **eucharisteo** - to be grateful, (actively) to express gratitude (towards); to say grace at a meal:--(give) thank(-ful, -s).
- b. Acts 5:41; Jas 1:2-3; 1 Pet 1:6-9
- c. should be a normal part of the regenerate life – Ps 136:1-3; Dan 6:10; Eph 5:20; Col 3:17; Heb 13:15
- d. it is fruit of the Holy Spirit – Col 2:7; 1 Co 14:12-17
- e. it is one way to be distinct from the unbelievers – Eph 5:3-4; 2 Co 4:15; 9:11
- f. Christians ought to be known by thankfulness – Eph 5:18-20, even in times of great anxiety, fear, worry, and stress – Phil 4:6-7

4. for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

- a. attached to all three commands in this passage
- b. these are expressions of righteousness and God give grace to do them – Phil 2:13