

Pray Without Ceasing

January 22, 2023

Pastor Mark Hebebrand

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 NKJV ~ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Rejoice always - Why rejoice?

We have so many testimonies of His faithfulness and goodness. We get to go before the Lord daily. We have a spirit of joy in us.

Galatians 5:22 NKJV ~ But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Romans 14:17 NKJV ~ for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Pray without ceasing

Brad Archer

To “pray without ceasing” means to have our minds always on the things of God, to be in constant communication with him, so that every moment may be as fruitful as possible.

Why pray?

- Connect with God
- Sensitive to the Spirit
- Prayer keeps the faith switch on
- Prayer keeps you in tune with the Lord’s voice (His sheep know His voice)
- Spiritual warfare / holiness
- Prophetic words from the Lord
- In the Holy Spirit (tongues) Jude 1:20

- You can see the majesty of God in nature
- You can look to the future because your hope is in Christ

Give Thanks in everything

Jesus gave thanks (miracles, Lazarus, last supper)

Paul Gave thanks in the midst of a storm.

Act 27:33 NKJV ~ And as day was about to dawn, Paul implored *them* all to take food, saying, "Today is the fourteenth day you have waited and continued without food, and eaten nothing. ³⁴ Therefore I urge you to take nourishment, for this is for your survival, since not a hair will fall from the head of any of you." ³⁵ And when he had said these things, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all; and when he had broken *it* he began to eat. ³⁶ Then they were all encouraged, and also took food themselves. ³⁷ And in all we were two hundred and seventy-six persons on the ship. ³⁸ So when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship and threw out the wheat into the sea.

Psalms 107:1 ESV ~ Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!

Colossians 3:17 ESV ~ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:15 ESV ~ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

1 Chronicles 16:34 ESV ~ Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

Philippians 4:6 ESV ~ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Ephesians 5:20 ESV ~ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

This is the will of God

Psalm 34:1 BSV ~ I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise will always be on my lips.

Daniel 6:10 ESV ~ Now when Daniel learned that the document had been signed, he went into his house, where the windows of his upper room opened toward Jerusalem, and three times a day he got down on his knees, prayed, and gave thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

Ephesians 5:20 NIV ~ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Closing thought: Do we focus on the shortest part of our life? When we should focus on the longest. Let us remember to rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and in everything give thanks to the Lord!