

**Rejoice Always**  
**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

Rich O'Toole

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**I. As Christians, when should we rejoice? 1 Thessalonians 5:16**

The word **rejoice** is actually an action \_\_\_\_\_, and the dictionary definition means to feel or show great joy or delight.

- Circumstances always \_\_\_\_\_, but the Lord never changes. Happiness comes from happenings, or because something happens our way. But the Lord instructs us to rejoice in all circumstances, in \_\_\_\_\_, as well as times of blessing.

**II. "Pray always". 1 Thessalonians 5:17**

For most Christians, prayer is our \_\_\_\_\_ power source!

- **"I called upon the LORD"** literally means to cry out; to implore aid with \_\_\_\_\_. **2 Samuel 22:7**

Our Prayers do not change God's mind, they \_\_\_\_\_ our mind, to think like Him. **Psalm 37:4-5**

**III. "Give thanks". 1 Thessalonians 5:18a**

When it comes to being **thankful**, "\_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_."

- The medical field agrees, **thankfulness** is a \_\_\_\_\_ matter. People who are thankful enjoy life more because they are not always angry, and they are content with what God has \_\_\_\_\_.

**IV. Discovering God's will for your life. 1 Thessalonians 5:18b**

For those who claim to follow Jesus, a **"Living Sacrifice"** is someone who \_\_\_\_\_ places themselves on the Altar, to actively do the work and will of God. **Romans 12:1-2**

- The word **conformed** means "to be or become similar in form, nature or \_\_\_\_\_." (*thefreedictionary.com*)

You will always \_\_\_\_\_ in the center of God's will, as you give yourself as a **"Living sacrifice"** to Him.

**V. Practical Application.**

- The Lord allows trials in our lives to \_\_\_\_\_ us spiritually.
- The Lord allows trials in our lives to \_\_\_\_\_ us.
- The Lord allows trials in our lives to \_\_\_\_\_ Himself faithful.

**Romans 8:28**

- The Lord's purpose for us during trials is to \_\_\_\_\_ us into the image of Jesus Christ. **Romans 8:29**

**Small Group Discussion**

*Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?*

1. Read **1 Thessalonians 5:16**. Discuss the differences between joy and happiness.  
**Romans 8:28, James 1:2, 1 Peter 1:6-9, Malachi 3:6, Genesis 50:20**
2. *How can Christians "pray without ceasing"?*  
**Luke 18:1-8, Matthew 6:7-8, Acts 1:14, Psalm 37:4-5**
3. Discuss the importance of having an attitude of thankfulness.  
**Philippians 4:6-7, 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Psalm 136:2, 1 Chronicles 16:8**
4. *How do you seek the Lord? What would it mean for you to seek God throughout the day today? What might help you to do this?*  
**Romans 10:9-13, Malachi 3:1, 1 Chronicles 16:11, 1 Chronicles 22:19, Acts 17:27**
5. Read **Psalm 105:8**. Discuss some ways you have recognized God being faithful to His promises.  
**Philippians 4:19, 1 John 1:9, 2 Peter 1:4, Joshua 23:14, Hebrews 8:13, Romans 8:3**
6. Read **Psalm 105:13-15**. Discuss some of the protections we receive from the Lord.  
**Psalm 34:7-9, Genesis 20, 2 Thessalonians 3:3-5, Genesis 50:15-21, John 16:33**
7. Discuss the practical application section of the sermon notes.