

GIVE THANKS

talk it
over

KEY SCRIPTURE

Thessalonians 5.16-18

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

GROW

Rejoice // Pray // Give Thanks

If we allow it, all three of these opportunities can become churchy terms we throw around, and not invitations we engage in. To “rejoice always” doesn’t mean you can’t have bad days, or you won’t have circumstances that knock you out. Just like to “pray continually” doesn’t mean we stop doing other things, and commit to only praying 24/7. And to “give thanks in all circumstances” doesn’t mean you are thanking God for bad, sinful, evil things that may have happened to you. To “rejoice always, pray continually, [and] give thanks in all circumstances” is our response to what Jesus did for us, and gaining an eternal perspective of life in this temporal world. And from this we praise God for Who He is and what He’s done, regardless of situation or circumstance. It’s being aware of and interacting with the Spirit of God that is working in and around you every day, then submitting to what He says. It’s carrying a heart that is constantly thankful in the days full of variables. Because your rejoicing, and praying, and thankfulness is not proportional to what you have, or what you’re going through, it is proportional to your understanding of the grace of Jesus you have already received.

Read: 1 Chronicles 16.34-36 // Psalm 9.1-2

LOOK

What are you thankful for this year?

Does your list look the same as last year?

When you say you’re thankful for God in your life, what does that mean?

Do you ever find yourself ungrateful instead of thankful?

In those moments what are you usually experiencing?
Success or failures? Victories or defeats?