



REJOICE NOVEMBER 22, 2020

BIG QUESTION: HOW CAN WE REJOICE AND GIVE THANKS WHEN THINGS ARE BAD AROUND US?

1 Thessalonians 5:1-24 English Standard Version

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴ But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵ For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶ So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the **breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.** ⁹ **For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,** ¹⁰ **who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.** ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

¹² We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³ and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. ¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers, admonish (gently reprove) the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. ¹⁵ See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. ¹⁶ **Rejoice always,** ¹⁷ **pray without ceasing,** ¹⁸ **give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.** ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²² Abstain from every form of evil.

²³ Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ **He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.**

Philippians 4:4-6 King James Version ⁴ **Rejoice** in the Lord always: and again I say, **Rejoice.** ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication **with thanksgiving** let your requests be made known to God.

Big Thought: We can rejoice and be thankful in the Lord always. Why? Because TRUE JOY does not depend on CIRCUMSTANCES but on the presence of the Lord with us, and what He has done for us.

So how do we live a life of rejoicing and hope in a world where there is pain, darkness, and division?

- **Be at peace among yourselves**
- **Admonish (gently reprove) the idle**
- **Encourage the fainthearted**
- **Help the weak**
- **Be patient with them all**
- **See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always**
- **Seek to do good to one another and to everyone.**
- **Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**

Philippians 4:7-8 English Standard Version

⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.