

I just want to "Thank You Lord"

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)

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

Good morning Big Bethel Nation. God is so good. He has been the glue that has kept us together. We give God honor. We give honor to Jesus the Christ. We give honor to the Holy Spirit. We acknowledge all of God's clergy and laity. We thank God for every one of you, knowing that the Lord is in the blessing business.

Please turn to 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19 (NIV). I would like to tag the text with the topic: I just want to thank you Lord.

Have you ever wondered what God's will is for you in Christ Jesus? According to 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, it's that you would rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances. As we embrace this concept, it will bless us in our walk with the lord.

First, **Rejoice Always**. My brothers and sisters we've got something to rejoice about. Psalms 100 says "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands". Serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations. That means when we wake up in the morning, we ought to rejoice in the Lord. In the noonday, we ought to rejoice in the Lord. In the midnight hour, we ought to rejoice in the Lord. You might have the most expensive car, but you've got something to praise the lord about. You might not have the biggest house on the block, but you've got something to praise the lord about. You might not have a million dollars in the bank, but you've got something to praise the Lord about. The Word of God teaches us, "Let everything that has breath give God some praise." (Psalm 150:6) Hallelujah to the Lamb of God.

Secondly, **Pray continually**. In Luke Chapter 18, Jesus tells a story that many theologians refer to as "The Parable of the Widow and the Unjust Judge." In this parable Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, 'In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and haying, "Grant me justice against my opponent." For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, "Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet

because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.” **And the Lord said, ‘Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to His chosen ones who cry to Him day and night? Will He delay long in helping them? I tell you, He will quickly grant justice to them.** And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?’ Big Bethel, Jesus is helping us understand that there is power in prayer. Much Prayer means much power. Can anybody testify of the power of prayer in their life? Somebody prayed for me. Had me on their mind. Took the time to pray for me. You know what? I’m so glad they prayed. I’m so glad they prayed. I’m so glad they prayed for me. The choir sang in the spirit of love on Mother’s Day in power of an old hymn... “My momma prayed for me, had me on her mind, took the time to pray for me, I’m so glad she prayed. I’m so glad she prayed. I’m so glad she prayed for me.” Hallelujah to the lamb of God. My preacher prayed for me, had me on his mind, took the time to pray for me. I’m so glad he prayed. I’m so glad he prayed. I’m so glad he prayed for me.”

Thirdly, **Give thanks in all circumstances.** As I reflect on the goodness of the Lord. All I can do is give thanks to the Lord. Can I get a witness this morning? Have you been delivered? Has He saved your soul? Has the lord made a way out of no way? Has He blessed you with a reasonable portion of health and strength? Has He kept you alive? If you know that you know that you know that if it had not been for the lord on your side... Where would you be? You ought to magnify the Lord with me and give thanks in all circumstances. Regardless of how you feel, regardless of what the circumstances look like, regardless of what the enemy said about you... Our God will supply all of your needs according to His riches in glory. When I think about the goodness of Jesus, and all that He has done for me, my soul cries out Hallelujah. You’ve been my sunshine in the rain. You’ve been my joy and my strong tower. You’ve been a mighty good friend. Thank You Lord. Thank You Lord. Thank You Lord for ALL YOU’VE DONE FOR ME. Hallelujah. Amen.

In closing, if you are here today and you’re reading/listening to this message, I want you to know that there is hope and that hope is Jesus. You see Jesus is available to you today. Romans 10:9-11 teaches us, “If you declare with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame. To God be the glory for the great things He has done. The lord bless you and smile upon you. In the matchless name of Jesus. Amen.