

1 Thessalonians 5:16.

**Our Subject today** is 'the trinity of Christian duty.' Three vital instructions. 1 Rejoice Evermore 2 Pray without ceasing and 3 In everything give thanks.

**Our first heading REJOICE EVERMORE.** In these verses I read that we see a trinity of privileges. Let's look at them separately then look at them together

**"Rejoice evermore."** It's not just trying to think of earthly things that make us glad. One of the old writers said, that we cannot truly rejoice unless we look past the grave, to eternity. True rejoicing is that which is Eternal. When we think of:- **Our conversion.**

*We will rejoice in thy salvation* Saved from eternal separation and misery, Granted life with Christ Jesus for evermore. To think that **God chose me from the foundation of the world!** *I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy* That He loved me so much that He sent His only begotten Son. Oh, we have here so much reason to rejoice... I was so undeserving yet He came for me while I was yet a sinner and rescued me. We think of His Never changing Holy Word, *God hath spoken in his holiness; I will rejoice* I rejoice, I am glad, I am joyful, I am full of joy.

**Is it only for some? No its for all** *Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee:* Psalm 70:4. Why do we all rejoice? because of what He has done and **also who He is.** He is **the Eternal** one, So **great** So **High** So **deep infinite** in His mercies. He is **dwells in the brightest light of glory**, the purest truth, His eyes search the whole earth, there is no secret before Him. He neither slumber no sleeps, His wisdom is far above even the highest wisdom of man. He knows no shadow of change. He is the rock of all ages. He watches over us, He upholds us. That is reason to rejoice- but then there is more still-

**our privileges** as children of God. *Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits:* **Access** to the Throne of Grace. **Adopted** into the family, not just any family the family of the king of kings and the Lord of Lords! **justified** and all **sin forgiven.** An **eternal inheritance**, incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.

**How we rejoice and our hearts are filled with joy when we grasp His love for us.** The Hymn writer, Samuel Trevor Francis, a business man was said to have crossed the Atlantic Ocean by Ship - and one could picture Him standing on the deck of the ship, looking out for as far as he could see from horizon to horizon seeing the sea. thinking there is water all around Him. thinking how deep the water was under Him, thinking how strong the currents were. He wrote the lines *Oh-oh the deep, deep love of Jesus*

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*Vast unmeasured, boundless, free Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me  
Underneath me, all around me Is the current of His love Leading onward, leading  
homeward to Thy glorious rest above.*

**His Love for us a tremendous source of rejoicing**, His faithfulness that will never leave us nor forsake us. Never abandon us. His protection as a hen does gather her chicks under her wings we are sheltered and protected under His care.

**His multitude of Thoughts toward us.** *Psalms 139:17 How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!* That the Lord is mindful of us. The Lord liveth and thinketh upon us, The Lord remembers us, for He has engraved our names upon the palms of His hands, may we never forget Him. **Isa 49:16.** and the verse before V15 *can a woman forget her sucking child, that she may not have compassion on the son of her womb. yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.*

He is our father above that keeps his eye upon us who are so poor and needy, even although He has a whole universe to rule. He cares for us, He has been and He is mindful of us. He knows every minute detail about us. *Luke 12:6-7 Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? [7] But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.*

**Once I've focused upon some of all the eternal treasures**, there is a Joy that wells up in My heart. When I consider this is my God -the one to whom I've been granted access. This is the one who gives ear to me. He hears He cares He helps me. I am stirred and realise His faithfulness and compassion towards me. I make my requests and **supplications I tell Him because He is not only caring but He is mighty to act.**

**This command Rejoice evermore.** One would think that men would be glad to obey it. It would be a lot harder if it were repent evermore, **but it is rejoice evermore.** **Scripture is full of this command.** *Psalms 32:11 Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.*

*Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.*

Our Lord prayed for us to have Joy *John 17:13 And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.*

**Joy and rejoicing is a duty and a privilege.** We rejoice because our real treasure, that which is of true value can never be taken away from us.

**God commands be ye Holy for I am Holy.** We wouldn't question this. that He wants us Holy. But he also wants us to be Joyful, He wants us to do His will upon earth as the

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angels rejoice in Heaven He wants us to rejoice on earth. The Lord says to us **REJOICE** that your name is written in the Lambs book of Life. **Rejoicing and praising God is the only thing we can give to God.** What else could we give? I can only give my thanks unto Him. What could I possibly do for God? I give Him Praise. It's the least I can do, and it's all I can do. And when I do How blessed I am, how strengthened I am.

**Rejoicing and Prayer are connected.** The Next verse our second heading **2. Pray without ceasing.** Prayer and Rejoicing are intimately connected. **Pray without ceasing.** The meaning is not that men should do nothing else except to pray, but that *nothing else we do should hinder prayer* in its proper season. Prayer will help advance, and not hinder all other lawful, and every day business, and every good work.

**The Command to pray,** As Elisha would not prophecy until the minstrel *came* **2 Kings 3:15** *But now bring me a minstrel. And it came to pass, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him.* The minstrel likely played and sung a psalm of David. So is it with us, **when our minds are stirred and troubled, beginning to rejoice in the Lord stills the storm,** and we are more ready to pray.

**This connection between prayer and rejoicing is so strong.** The more we pray the more we will rejoice. In God's presence is Joy forever more There is gladness of heart. Prayer will inspire Rejoicing. And Rejoicing will inspire Prayer.

**Think of the that which hinders Prayer.**

Unbelief and lack of confidence or lack of faith in God's Love and faithfulness. By reminding ourselves of the eternal promises in God's Word is a solid ground for rejoicing. and Rejoicing will inspire prayer.

Our Laziness or as it was said in days of old slothfulness, in the giving of thanks, in rejoicing evermore, in hiding the word of God in our hearts, in listening to preaching's, in reading my bible in a devotional manor, We call all these **MEANS OF GRACE.**

**If you are thirsty, what do you do?** You go to the tap and open it and get water. In the same way **when you need grace** what do you do? We partake of the **MEANS OF GRACE.**

**Pray without ceasing.** one of this trilogy of Commands, or **this trinity of Commands.** Like the 3 gifts brought by the Maggi to King Jesus, But these 3 Gifts are of infinitely higher Value. **How the Lord values and loves to see His Children in Prayer.** Their prayers are like a sweet-smelling savor unto Him A sweet smell in His nostrils.

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prayer is so profitable - it does more good to man even than the giving of assistances or contributions, I can give donations and help to one or two or 3 or 4 but when I pray I can help many **more even hundreds**.

**PRAYER is the key to victory and to strength.** Just as Sampsons hair was the key to His great strength and victories. We learn and gain more in prayer and communion with God than even in hours of reading and study. **What is wrought and accomplished in prayer by one man** far outweighs what even a team of many men can achieve in their own strength.

We can have our mind so full of schemes and plans that consume us day and night. I'm going to do this and that, and then I'll make so much profit.

If so and so tries to hinder me. Ill fight Him Our minds are so full of earthly actions and plans we have no time for Godly meditation or thoughts.

**But How much more profitable to pause** and to speak to ourselves in **Psalms and Hymns and spiritual songs** making melody in our hearts unto the Lord. **This will inspire prayer.**

Let us not think God will not hear us. *Psalms 50:23 Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God.*

**These three Virtues** 1. Rejoice Evermore 2 Pray without ceasing and 3 In every thing give thanks. Are often called the trinity of Christian duty. **Possibly because in the end all 3 are one.** We have seen how closely Rejoicing is connected to prayer.

**3. How is Prayer connected to thanksgiving?** If we pray without ceasing, we shall not lack for things to give thanksgiving *for.* *Oh Answered prayer gives us so much to thank God for.* ***We can only give thanks in EVERYTHING, if we take EVERYTHING to the Lord in Prayer.*** *If we Pray always we will thank always.*

1 Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks: **for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.**

Giving of thanks should have a prominent place in my devotion to the Lord. When I pray, I not only ask only I make my supplication with thanksgiving. Philip 4:6 **How profitable when thanksgiving becomes a habit.** When someone is learning to play a musical instrument, they struggle and don't do it very well. But then it eventually becomes a habit and they do it with ease and the result is beautiful music. We must give thanks in everything, for this is the will of God. We should be thankful in every condition, even in adversity as well as prosperity. \* a pastor used to always give thanks for the good day every Sunday morning. One Sunday morning it was freezing cold rainy and wet. The

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sceptics in the congregation thought lets see how Pastor will give thanks for this. He then said I thank you Lord that not every day is like this day. There is always something to thank God for. Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. For all earthly blessings, for food, for cloths, for strength to walk and conduct your business, Oh give thanks that He has made you fit for heaven, Washed you and cleansed you, sanctified you and prepared an eternal Home for you.

Be thankful that the Grace of God is sufficient, to bear you up, and to deliver you even out of the darkest blackness of night. There is nothing too hard for our God. Thank Him that He is a sympathizing God and able to comfort us in all our affliction. That our afflictions are not eternal. That one blast of his breath upon them and they will be gone.

**But it's so hard now what can I give thanks for?** His Name is worthy of praise always, His mercies are new every morning, *I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness*

I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth. Nothing of true value can ever be taken from me.

His adopted Children, those born of the Spirit, in the midst of earth's distresses in terrible darkness, can run to Him and can rejoice in Him who is the God of their eternal salvation, since by all these afflictions and trials and pain, their salvation cannot be hindered, or stolen but only furthered.

This is how how a Christian can keep his heart from distrusting God, or feeling and expressing discontent against him. when outward situations weigh so heavily upon us. When our complaining heart asks the question, '**Was there ever sorrow like mine?**' ask these worthies, **Ask Paul**, who suffered Shipwreck, was hungry, had no house, **ask David** who was hunted like a wild beast by Saul. But why ask these when there is a greater one our **Lord and Savior**. He suffered and was rejected and mistreated and He did no wrong. All of these worthy ones **will tell you** - that though they did not complain as we do, yet their condition was as needed just as as yours is.

It may be very dark hour you are facing , yet God will not leave you in the darkness without a promise. I read a quote – its better to be as low as hell with a divine promise than to be in paradise without one.

Even the darkness of hell itself would be no darkness at all, were there but a promise to enlighten it.

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Now, God has left many sweet promises- Rejoice in these- Give Thanks for these- Soon your prayer will be going up like a sweet smelling savour.

“O fear the Lord, ye his saints, for there is no want to them that fear him; the lions do lack and suffer hunger, but they that fear the Lord shall not want any good thing.”

“The eye of the Lord is upon the righteous to keep them alive in famine.”

“No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.”

“He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?”

“When the poor and the needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.”

**Habakkuk 3:17-18** Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the stalls— [18] Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

There are many calamities and hard things we face, But the remedy is YET WILL I REJOICE.

**AMEN**

quench not the Spirit. **Despise not Prophecyings.** What is meant by this? Does it mean when we hear those who claim to be modern prophets we should not despise what they say?

**Prophecyings.** a discourse proceeding from divine inspiration and declaring the purposes of God. **prophecy**, a gifted capability of setting forth and enforcing revealed truth. While the bible meaning includes foretelling the future by divine revelation as we read in the scripture regarding the prophets of old. It also can be meant a correct setting forth of the old testament meanings and types and shadows.

**Here in this passage the term**, By *prophecyings* - we are to understand the preaching of the word, the interpreting and applying of the scriptures. It's a making clear of what our duty is concerning the Holy Scripture. Not to despise scripture and treat Gods word as **just an ordinary** book. **Not to despise plain preaching**, it does more good to have our minds stirred by the Holy Word, than entertaining presentations. (*enticing words of man's wisdom*) Rather we see The Word of God breathed and inspirited by the Holy Spirit. Rather we prize, value, and highly esteem it, apply it, make it our central focus, have great regard to it; **it being an ordinance of God** for instruction and edification, we pay attention to it making it the pattern for our very behavior and every action in life.

You see in the bible days there were many prophesyings. But today we have the word of God. The revealed truth of God. The wisdom of God, the will of God. The word of God is the foundation of our lives for guidance, for instruction. **2 Timothy 3:16** All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

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We don't need a word from a prophet. **We have God's word.** Prophecy and prophets **have been replaced by God's written word.** If we want to know a truth we consult God's word, we need not consult a man. Besides there are no prophets. I say this because God's word gives specific instructions in the appointment of leaders. If a bishop is to be appointed. What does the biblical word a Bishop mean? An overseer and a superintendent, a man charged with the duty of seeing that things to be done by others are done rightly. The instructions for such a man He must be blameless, the Husband of but one wife. vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach. It's very specific. Even with the appointment of Deacons there are very clear and specific guidelines. **Don't you think that if Prophets, or Apostles were to be appointed that there would be guidelines in the scripture? But we find none. Why not.** Because we now have the Written word of God the full revelation. John 14:26 and John 16:13. we see Jesus clearly told the disciples that when the Holy Spirit came he would lead them into all truth. The Disciples under the inspiration of all truth by the Holy Ghost penned the Scriptures. The Bible is complete there is no more revelation added year by year. **Scripture is the final plumbline for everything.** Scripture is complete, trustworthy, and perfect. Nothing is to be added and nothing is to be taken away. Rev 22:18-19