

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

According to chapter 5:16 we as Christians should be joyful at all times. WOW!! That is a pretty big thing to think about – being joyful at all times. Are you joyful when that driver cuts you off on the road? Are you joyful when you are stressing about money situations? Or how about the hustle and bustle of the holiday season – are you joyful at all times, during this time? Or because we are all human, does the stress and demands that the world puts on us during this time of year sometimes suck a little of that joy away? I think it would help to try to practice an unconditional forgiveness – if we have a bitter, unforgiving spirit, that joy will be blocked up tight. And try to remember, there is a difference between being joyful and being happy. Life may not always leave us feeling happy. But joy – joy is an eternal perspective that we all have through our trusting hope in Jesus Christ. So in the hustle and bustle of this holiday season remember – remember not to suppress the Holy Spirit. Live with joy, prayer, and thanksgiving, and be ready – keep awake, for the return of Jesus Christ. The babe born in the manger has conquered death and will raise believers from the dead. I can think of nothing that can bring greater joy, than that promise to us.

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