

1 Thessalonians 5:15-18

See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Reading today's devotional verses they are things that we have all done. I mean come on, haven't you **give thanks** especially today, which is Thanksgiving Day. Haven't you **prayed** or **rejoiced** or **pursued what is good**?

It's good that we have, but the bad thing is that we choose when we will. If you read it again it says words like **always** and **without ceasing** and **in everything**, these all mean all the time, even the one that says **see that no one renders evil for evil to anyone**; All meaning to do **all** the time not just during certain circumstances.

Yet how many only rejoice when something great happens, "Hey I got a raise or a new car or I got married let's **rejoice**."

Or, "I really need help with this, I need to **pray**, even though I don't pray at other times"

How about, "It's Thanksgiving, so let's give **thanks**, but I don't really do it any other time."

You see, the word of God is not a pick and choose those things you want to do, when you want to do them. No, it's instructions to live by every day and in all situations. I know about having hard time, I have had both great times in my life and hard times and also average every day times. But in those hard times I can **rejoice**, not because of the circumstance, but because I know that God is with me in it and that He will get me through it, even though it may be tough and I don't like it.

Prayer should be part of a daily thing, just like talking to your spouse or kids or your coworkers is a daily thing. How much more important is God then them all? If He is, shouldn't you be talking to Him more them?

Renders evil for evil, I know this can be a tough one with the way the world is. Some jerk cuts you off on the freeway and your praise turns into profanity. But if we are to be different then the world, should our response to those who are mean and evil be different.

I know sometimes it's hard to do these things all the time and in all situations, and in our humanly flesh we can't do them. But we all love to quote this next verse, which if you think about it, so much applies to us being able to do these things spoken of in today's devotional verses.

† **Philippians 4:13** *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

✧ *I can rejoice always in all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

✧ *I can pray without ceasing in all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

✧ *I can give thanks for everything through Christ who strengthens me.*

✧ *I can pursue what is good for all through Christ who strengthens me.*

✧ *I can even not render evil for evil to anyone through Christ who strengthens me.*