



“The Will of God” (Grad Sunday Service)

The first letter to the Thessalonians = Paul telling them they are doing it right.

“16 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

Three steps for God’s will:

- God’s will is far different from God’s plan
- God’s plan = His future for you (We cannot know this)
- God’s will = What he wants for you (The Bible teaches us this)

1 Thessalonians = God wants you to be joyful always, praying continually, and giving thanks at all times.

1. _____ Always (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

First part of God’s will or his desires for your life.

This does not mean we should be happy all the time and does not mean that if you are sad, you are outside of God’s will.

Paul is reminding the Thessalonians that Joy is the _____ position of the Christian, not sorrow.

“Man is more himself, man is more manlike, when joy is the fundamental thing in him, and grief the superficial. Melancholy should be an innocent interlude, a tender and fugitive frame of mind; praise should be the permanent pulsation of the soul. Pessimism is at best an emotional half-holiday; joy is the uproarious labour by which all things live.” **-G.K. Chesterton**

2. _____ Continually (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

The second part of God’s will – Often also heard as praying without ceasing.

This does not mean locking yourself in a room and doing nothing but prayer.

Paul is calling us to do everything with God – In everything that you do, do it with God.

The God of the universe’s will, and desire is to permeate every aspect of your life.

We often get worked up about saying the “right” things in prayer o

“Prayer is about what is in us. Not what ought to be in us.” **-C.S. Lewis**

3. _____ in All Circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

“To be a saint is to be motivated by gratitude, nothing more and nothing less.” **-Ron Rolheiser**

Why? **Gratitude is the only proper response to the cross.**

The only proper response to eternal _____ is eternal _____.

Conclusion

God’s will is all about the type of person he wants you to become.

Paul tells us that God wants us to be **joyful people, who are thankful for everything, and are walking alongside God in all things.**

All scripture is from the New International Version unless otherwise note.



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1. Rejoice Always (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

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2. Pray Continually (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

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“Prayer is about what is in us. Not what ought to be in us.” -**C.S. Lewis**

3. Gratitude in All Circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

“To be a saint is to be motivated by gratitude, nothing more and nothing less.” -**Ron Rolheiser**

Why? **Gratitude is the only proper response to the cross.**

The only proper response to eternal grace is eternal gratitude.

Conclusion

God’s will is all about the type of person he wants you to become.

Paul tells us that God wants us to be **joyful people, who are thankful for everything, and are walking alongside God in all things.**

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