

1 Thessalonians 5 - The Waiting Room – part 8

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18—We are pursuing the answers to the question of “[what do we do while we wait on the what God has for us.](#)”

--Our remodeling reminds us that He is Remodeling us into His image the world doesn't need anymore of us; it needs a lot of little Jesus's—Romans 8:29

--Spirit filled—Spirit controlled people make a difference.

--Where does that come from? God's presence.

--We looked last time at constant prayer. Praying at all times in the Spirit Ephesians 6:18 God is sovereign, God alone saves, God knows the end from the beginning—Why does He need us? He doesn't! But He does choose to use us, and without us He will do nothing.

“Pray without ceasing.” Your immediate response should be: “For what?” I mean, the assumption here is that the reason we rejoice all the time and give thanks all the time is because all the bases are covered, right?

--Why does God choose to use us as the instruments of His work?

Jesus appears to Paul on the road to Damascus, blinds him and sends him on telling him that someone there would tell him what to do—why didn't He tell him? why were the scales left on his eyes until Ananias spoke to him?

Remember the Arab Spring, as it was called, back in 2010 lasted more than two years? A friend of ours was a missionary at the time in Cairo and he told us this amazing story. One of the believers there was kidnapped during that terrible time and taken to on a long circuitous route blindfolded. He was walked into a large room where their footsteps echoed and when his blindfold was removed, he was standing in a mosque in the midst of several dozen men all sitting on the ground. He thought he was about to meet his end when one of them spoke to him and told him that the night before all of these men had had the same dream in which they were told to find a Christian and have him speak to them!! “Tell us about Jesus” so he did and they re-blindfolded him and dropped him back on the street from which he was abducted. Why didn't God just tell them?

God has an eternal plan to save, but that plan only works through faithful preachers and witnesses.

--That's why we're told to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

I cannot tell you how God does anything, I only know what He does and what He tells us to do

--God alone saves us, but not apart from our repenting and believing.

--God saves, but not apart from a human instrument to give the message.

--God works His consummate plan, but not apart from the intercession of His people.

--James 5:16 – “much” If we only knew how much, we would be praying without ceasing.

We have been looking at this trilogy of commands that have the exponent of “this is God's will for you” attached to them.

--Our final installment of these is “in everything give thanks.”

--We can think of this three-fold will of God as: **Our Testimony**—always rejoicing; **Our Ministry**—always praying; and **Our Attitude**—always thankful

1. The attitude of thanksgiving is another mark of true believers.

It is a Mark because: Romans 1:21; II Timothy 3:2

--“ungrateful” or “unthankful” is a Mark of Rebellion.

--Are you a rebel? No? Then you need to be giving thanks in everything.

All things? Yes, we rejoice in all things and we give thanks in all things because there isn't anything outside of these “all things”: Romans 8:28

We rejoice always because we know we are in the grip of all that God is doing in our lives.
We pray without ceasing because we know our prayers avail so much.
We thank God in everything because we know He's sovereign over all whether its good of bad.
You can also understand Heaven and eternity along the same three-fold will of God for us: A place where joy will be full and unceasing; speaking to God will not stop; Thankfulness will know no end.

Colossians 3:15; 17; 4:2; Philippians 4:6; Ephesians 5:18-21; Psalm 100:4; 106:1; 107:1—
How many times does the Scripture need to repeat something—it must be that we are going to have a hard time with this.

A famous English Bible scholar named Matthew Henry was once attacked by thieves and robbed of his purse. He wrote these words in his diary: "Let me be thankful. First, I was never robbed before. Second, although they took my purse, they didn't take my life. Third, although they took my all, it was not much. Fourth, let me be thankful because it was I who was robbed and not I who did the robbing."

You may feel as if you are sitting still right now, but it's an illusion of miraculous proportions. Planet Earth is spinning around its axis at a speed of 1,000 miles per hour. Every 24 hours, planet Earth pulls off a celestial 360. We're also hurtling through space at an average velocity of 67,108 miles per hour. That's not just faster than a speeding bullet. It's 87 times faster than the speed of sound. So even on a day when you feel like you didn't get much done, don't forget that you did travel 1,599,793 miles through space! To top things off, the Milky Way is spinning like a galactic pinwheel at the dizzying rate of 483,000 mph.

If that isn't miraculous, I don't know what is. Yet when was the last time you thanked God for keeping us in orbit? I'm guessing you've never prayed, "Lord, I wasn't sure we'd make the full rotation today, but You did it again"! We just don't pray that way. And that is the ultimate irony: we already believe God for the big miracles like they're no big deal. The trick is trusting him for the little ones.