

CHOOSING THANKS

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)

❖ Choose JOY:

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Philippians 4:4 (NIV)

1. God's LOVE is the FOUNDATION of our JOY.

I am overcome with joy because of your unfailing love, for you have seen my troubles, and you care about the anguish of my soul.

Psalm 31:7 (NLT)

2. Our SALVATION is the REASON for our JOY.

The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God--he and his whole family.

Acts 16:34 (NIV)

3. Others being SAVED, and going to HEAVEN with us, will PRODUCE great JOY.

For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he returns? Is it not you?

1 Thessalonians 2:19 (NIV)

❖ Choose PRAYER:

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Romans 12:12 (NIV)

1. When you are DRY... PRAY.

Then God said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Listen to what they're saying: 'Our bones are dried up, our hope is gone, there's nothing left of us.'"

Ezekiel 37:11 (MSG)

2. When you are DRAINED... PRAY.

Their people, drained of power, are dismayed and put to shame. They are like plants in the field, like tender green shoots, like grass sprouting on the roof, scorched before it grows up.

Isaiah 37:27 (NIV)

3. When you are DEPRESSED or DEFEATED... PRAY.

Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.

❖ Choose THANKS:

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Psalm 118:1 (NIV)

1. Giving Thanks is an ACT of WORSHIP.

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.

Hebrews 12:28 (NIV)

2. Giving Thanks is an ACT of FAITH.

I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

Psalm 118:21 (NIV)

3. Giving Thanks is an ACT of WITNESS.

In that day you will say: "Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted."

Isaiah 12:4 (NIV)

❖ Closing Challenge: During this season CHOOSE THANKS.

And whatever you do or say, let it be as a representative of the Lord Jesus, all the while giving thanks through him to God the Father.

Colossians 3:17 (NLT)

❖ Today, I Choose Thanks!