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**LEADERSHIP DURING DIFFICULT DAYS
MINISTERING TO ONE-ANOTHER (PT. 4)
1THESSALONIANS 5:12-22**

*But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction,¹³ and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.¹⁴ We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.¹⁵ See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.¹⁶ **Rejoice always;¹⁷ pray without ceasing;¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.**¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit;²⁰ do not despise prophetic utterances.²¹ But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good;²² abstain from every form of evil.*

"PITHY PARADIGM" Jesus would have every disciple of His filled with the full measure His own joy. He would have it rise like a sacred flood until it overflows all banks, and eddies into every nook and cranny of the soul. How are we to obtain this inward bliss? Our text tells us. "These things I speak, that they might have My joy."

It is the Word of Jesus that gives this joy. No looking into our own hearts, or inspecting our own feelings, will avail. That will but empty us. It is reading the thoughts of God towards us, in the words of Jesus, that sweetly fills us to the full. And O how necessary it is that we should be filled.

Child of God, if you and I have only a half measure of this joy — then every changing circumstance will affect us. Let us but be full of it, and filled with it, and all positions and all circumstances will be alike. Our joy will remain within us. *Christ's Own Joy, is Our Joy!*
Archibald G. Brown

1. **"ADMONISH THE UNRULY"** The **Wayward**

2. **"ENCOURAGE THE FAINTHEARTED"**

These are the **Worried**.

3. **"HELP THE WEAK"** These folks were the **Weak** among the assembly.

4. **BE PATIENCE WITH EVERYONE.** These church members are **Wearisome** and slow of spiritual growth.

5. **NEVER REPAY EVIL FOR EVIL.** This class of folks are the **Wicked**.

Joy for the Believer is predicated on his position in Christ in relation to God. These injunctions are instructive in living the Christian life. We are given several imperatival commands to live out at all times.

Always is an adverb of time meaning at all times. Why **always**? Because as noted above the believer's joy originates not naturally from "happy" happenings but supernaturally, independent of circumstances and dependent on Christ our Example.

Hebrews 12:1-2 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

2 Corinthians 6:10 As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; ...

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

Matthew 5:12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: ...

Luke 10:20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject ...

Romans 12:12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

OK you might ask how to be joyful in every circumstance and trial?

Rejoicing can be in and concerning one's circumstances, but ultimately should be in God and His promises, because the people around us can be wayward, worried, weak and wicked. Such people would make an ordinary (natural, in Adam) person angry and sullen and discouraged. But we as believers (supernaturally, in Christ) have our roots planted somewhere else and are drawing up the sap of joy from a source that cannot be depleted, the river of God and his Word which the Spirit takes and uses to transform our thinking and our response to adverse circumstances and uncomfortable people. What is the key to rejoicing or delighting? www.preceptaustin.org/1_theressalonians_516_

Joy is the helium of the heart that makes us airborne. It's the corklike quality of our souls that keeps us buoyant.—Robert Morgan

Our text is NOT silent...we are to always rejoice with prayer (17) and thanksgiving (18) this is GOD's WILL.

Matthew 5:11 "Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Luke 6:23 Be glad in that day and leap *for joy*, for behold, your reward is great in heaven."

Hebrews 12:2-3 "Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Stedman—Trials make you grow up, make you face yourself and learn things about yourself you did not know. That is what James goes on to say, "That you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing,"

We must have an Eschatological Focus! Our most enlarged ideas of our future glory are faint and imperfect. Who can describe or conceive the

happiness of Heaven? It will be as unlike as possible--to this *wilderness of sin and sorrow* where we are now confined. Here on earth, we are in a *warfare*--but then we shall enter into *perfect rest*. We now cry out, "O that I had wings like a dove! For then would I flee away and be at REST." (Psalm 55:6)

Heaven will be a rest from all SIN. No 'unclean thing' shall ever defile or disturb us forever! We shall be free from all *indwelling sin*. *This alone would be worth dying for!* Indwelling sin is a burden under which all the redeemed must groan, while they sojourn in the body....But we shall not carry this *burden of sin* beyond the grave. The hour of death shall free us from our *inbred enemies* (the inseparable attendants of this frail perishing nature) which now trouble us, and we shall see them no more forever!

Heaven will also be a rest from all outward AFFLICTIONS...Heaven will also be a rest from SATAN'S TEMPTATIONS. How *busy* is this *adversary* of God and man...Here on earth--we obtain a little glimpse of His presence, when He brings us into His banqueting-house, and spreads His *banner of love* over us! And how gladly would we remain in such a desirable frame! How unwilling are we to 'come down' from the *mount!* ...But when we ascend the *holy hill of God above*--we shall never again 'come down'! We shall be *forever with the Lord*, never offend Him, and never be separated from Him again! "I will see Your face in righteousness; when I awake, I will be fully satisfied with Your presence!" (Psalm 17:15)

Here on earth--we find a *mixture of evil* in our most holy moments! When we approach nearest to God, we have the liveliest sense of our defilement, and how much we fall short in every branch of duty, and in every temper of our hearts. But when we shall see Jesus as He is--we shall be fully transformed into His image, and be perfectly like Him! ([John Newton, "The Present and Future Rest of True Believers"](#))

LEGISLATIVE BIBLE STUDY

Blatt Rm. 317—Wednesday, 8:30am

Prayer Request-jeff.lingerfelt@capitolcom.org