

# What God Wants You To Do

## 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

### Discussion Questions

- 1) What is the difference between God's secret, hidden will and His revealed will?
- 2) How do we know what God's revealed will is? Apart from 1 Thess. 5:16.18, can you think of any other Biblical commands that reveal what God wants you to do? (Hint: Matthew 5-7 is a good place to start).
- 3) What is the main theme of 1 Thessalonians? What is one of the main reasons why Paul is writing to the church at Thessalonica? How might understanding this context help us to obey these three Biblical commands in 1 Thess. 5:16-18?
- 4) It is important to understand that we have a reason for rejoicing and giving thanks to God. We don't have to try to create one. It is easy for us to lose sight of why we should rejoice and instead focus on our momentary troubles / mood / circumstances. Read Colossians 3:1-3. Why are these verses so important in this regard?
- 5) It is difficult for us to pray continuously if we aren't praying regularly. Read Psalm 55:16-17, Mark 1:35, and Daniel 6:10. What do we learn about Jesus's, David's and Daniel's spiritual patterns? What do your spiritual patterns look like? When and where do you practice some of the spiritual disciplines like Bible study and prayer?
- 6) We might struggle to pray continuously if we are in a position where it is difficult to pray. Do you willingly place yourself in positions where it is hard to obey the command to 'pray continuously'? How might you wisely change this?
- 7) Read Psalm 23. Why was David able to give praise to God despite being in the valley of the shadow of death? (Hint: verse 4). We are able to give thanks to God despite our circumstances when we take hold of God's promises. Can you think of any Scriptures where God promises that He will always be with us? (Hint: Deuteronomy 31:8).
- 8) Obeying these three instructions is impossible off our own willpower. God loves us so much that He knows we will never be deeply satisfied by rejoicing sometimes or praying whenever we can. How does the indwelling Holy Spirit help us to follow these Biblical commands?