

IN YOUR CLOSET

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances,
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

I Thessalonians 5: 16-18 ESV

WHAT CAN I DO IN PRAYER IN THE MIDST OF CRISIS?

God knows our hearts. He knows how we recoil in the face of crisis. Right now He knows absolutely how confused we may be as the coronavirus pandemic continues, while at the same time we must recognize how our country is struggling to find the best path in seeking justice for all; and at the same time living with respect and peace in relationship with each other. The Psalms are such a blessing. Meditate on these words from Psalm 10: 1-9:

**I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually
be in my mouth.**

**My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.
Oh, magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together!
I sought the Lord,
and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.
Those who look to him are radiant,
and their faces shall never be
ashamed.**

**This poor man cried,
and the Lord heard him
and saved him out of all his troubles.
The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him and
delivers them.**

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!

**Blessed is the man
who takes refuge in him!**

**Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints,
for those who fear him have no lack!**



It seems that throughout history God's people, when facing troubled times, have found strength, then courage, then ultimately, peace; by turning to God in heartfelt praise and thanksgiving.

DO YOU HAVE A THANKSGIVING LIST? TRY THIS:

1. Grab your device, your pen, your markers, or your pencil; however you choose to make your lists.
 2. Now, list some categories; what are you wanting or needing to thank God for?
 - A. Think of **people** (family, friends, teachers, pastors, mentors, teammates, etc.).
 - B. Next, list **churches** that have blessed your faith walk.
 - C. Then, list **schools** that have developed your strengths and abilities.
 - D. You can probably look back and think of particular **blessings** (salvation, healing, calling, moves, small groups, Bible Studies, etc.)
 - E. There are wonders of **nature** (the ocean, mountains, flowers, rainbows, butterflies, etc.) that delight you.
 - F. There are also **daily events** (children laughing, people praying, beautiful music, sudden insights, a loved one's smile).
- By now, you get the idea. There are more things to thank God for than you can ever list. Relax and enjoy this faith-building exercise.**
- Never consider your list as finished. As God gives you opportunities to rejoice, thank Him then, and add it to your list. Keep your list handy so you can include some specific thanksgiving in your daily prayers. Then, when things get tough, get it out, and in the words of the old hymn, "Count your many blessings, see what God has done."

MY PRAYER LIFE

1 Thessalonians 5:17:
Pray without ceasing.

This verse has become more of a reality to me in the last couple of months. Juggling family, home duties, work from home, and keeping the proper priorities has drawn me more to prayer and my desperate need to lean in closer to God!

James 1:5 says "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

On the days I have felt overwhelmed and needed direction in parenting or schooling the boys, or for the godly way to juggle it all, I pray this verse and seek Him for guidance. What an amazing truth that He so desires us to commune with Him. What an AMAZING PRIVILEGE IT IS!! May we not neglect it, but seek to know Him and love Him more, so through His Holy Spirit, He can use us as a light to those who do not know Him as Lord and Savior!

Philippians 2:13 "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure."

May we connect more intimately into the Vine so He will produce fruit to His honor and glory!!!

John 15:5 "I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

Know that you all have been in our prayers and we love each of you!

**In Christ,
Rachel Yarbrough**