

A Walk in the Word

Small Bites

Day 8: STRENGTH IN THE STRUGGLE (060225)

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - Rejoice always, **17** pray continually, **18** give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Observation: Paul is counseling the believers to follow this formula in order to not fall in difficult times and situations

Application/Analysis: I heard recently that over the course of a person's life, only 3% of the time is spent without some significant need, worry, or concern. So if you are 60 years old that's less than 2 years without issues and a 30 year old doesn't even have a good years worth of a problem free life. So why would God direct us like this? I mean if life is this tough, why am I rejoicing and giving thanks constantly? Well, my friend, it is because we live in the light meaning that Jesus lives in us and therefore we have his strength in our struggle. We do not worry about the darkness and when it will come or what it will bring or how long it will last. And when it does come, and trust me that it will, we thank the Lord for our circumstances. We release it all to him in constant and continual prayer, and we rejoice because nothing can separate us from the love of God through Jesus who lives in us (Rom 8:38-39). It is often said that the struggle is real and I have no argument against that truth, scripture supports that over 150 times with almost 100 of them in the New Testament so I will and I hope you will do as James and count it all joy (Jam 1:2) and do as Peter and cast all your cares on the Lord (1 Pet 5:7) and be confident in the strength that only He can provide.

Prayer: Father, thank you for our landing spot. Thank you that we know exactly where to go and exactly what to do as the struggles of this world challenge us. May we remember to leave it all at your feet and be thankful for your deliverance. In Jesus name - AMEN!

Takeaway: Know this!! Don't think, wish, or wonder. Know that God is with you in EVERY situation and circumstance and that you have already won so remain prayerful, thank Him, rejoice, and praise Him for all He has done.