



# C O N T R A S T

A STUDY IN 1 THESSALONIANS

**Joy. Prayer. Gratitude.**  
**November 17, 2024 | 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**  
**Questions for Study and Group Discussion**

*\*\* Before you begin, please read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

1. **Icebreaker:** What are 2-3 words that the people who know you best would use to describe you?
2. How do the “values” or “marks” highlighted in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 compare with common stereotypes of Christians? Explain.
3. How does the gospel of Jesus Christ and a big, active view of God fuel each of the three commands in the passage?
  - How does the gospel fuel joy?
  - How does the gospel encourage prayer?
  - How does the gospel motivate gratitude?
4. Spend time on each of the values that Paul highlights in this passage. For each, provide a brief definition of the value and 2-3 ideas for what this value looks like, practically applied.
  - Rejoice always
  - Pray continually
  - Give thanks in all circumstances
5. While growing in obedience to each of these commands is important, is there one of these commands that needs more attention first? What might it look like to grow in this value in your life, practically speaking?
6. What other questions or comments do you have about what you’ve looked at in the Bible today?
7. Imagine your life in light of what you read and learned from God’s Word:
  - What would your life look like, living in line with what you’ve learned from God’s Word?
  - What are the biggest challenges you anticipate, as you think about living in line with what you’ve learned?
  - Is there a specific situation in your life right now, where truth from this passage shapes how you live / think / relate with others?
  - What is one way you can practically apply what you learned this week?
8. **Challenge:** Identify one way this passage is challenging or encouraging you. Who can you tell about what you’re learning this coming week?
9. **Challenge: Memorize 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** — 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.