

January 2026 – CCH Times Ink Article

“¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷**pray without ceasing**, ¹⁸in everything give thanks” *1 Thessalonians 5*
(*New King James Version*)

Have you ever thought that perhaps you should spend more time in prayer with Jesus—or am I the only one who feels they fall short when it comes to talking with and listening to God? I’m grateful that I now have a special morning reminder to start my day with prayer. For Christmas, I was gifted a coffee mug etched with the NKJV translation of 1 Thessalonians 5:17 “**Pray without ceasing**”.

I checked out a couple other Bible translations I have at home of verses 15-18, with verse 17 highlighted. “Rejoice always *and* delight in your faith; **be unceasing and persistent in prayer**; in every situation [no matter what the circumstances] be thankful *and* continually give thanks *to God*; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.” (*Amplified Bible*); “Be cheerful no matter what; **pray all the time**; thank God no matter what happens.” (*The Message*); “Rejoice always, **pray continually**, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (*New International Version*); “Always be joyful. **Never stop praying**. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.” (*New Living Translation*); “Be joyful always, **pray at all times**, be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants from you in your life in union with Christ Jesus.” (*Good News Translation*). By the way, if you haven’t been to BibleGateway.com or one of the other online resources that give you immediate access to dozens of translations, you might want to give it a whirl. Even though I prefer spending time turning the physical pages of my Bibles, it’s fun to get lost in checking out different translations. The key meaning among all the translations is pretty clear and simple, and helps remind us that we all benefit from an ongoing conversation with God.

I love that my new coffee cup prompts me to start every day in prayer—even when I’m not awake enough to know what to pray for. When that happens, I can remember my pastor reminding us that we don’t have to know what to specifically pray for; it’s okay to just hold people up to God and ask that His will be done. God already knows what is best. And when I think I know what the specific outcome should be to my prayers, I should remember to submit to God’s plan at the end of my prayers by adding something like: “Father... even so, not what I want, but what You want.” (*NLT*); Father...not My will, but [always] Yours be done. (*AMP*); “Father, ... nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.” (*NKJV*).

We welcome you to join us on Wednesday evenings at 6 pm for an open prayer time—and on Sunday mornings at 9 am for our weekly worship service.