



SERMON NOTES

Bogus-Free Zone

Pastor Carl Toti

December 13-14, 2014

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Rejoice always,

¹⁷ pray without ceasing,

¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

REJOICE

Rejoice always, **1 Thessalonians 5:16 (NKJV)**

Philippians 4:4 (NKJV)

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

Between stimulus and response there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our freedom.

Viktor E. Frankl

Habakkuk 3:17-19 (ESV)

¹⁷ Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, ¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. ¹⁹ GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places. To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments.

WE CAN REJOICE BECUASE...

1. God is in control.

Psalms 115:3 (NKJV)

³ But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.

2. God has a plan.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

3. When you are weak He is strong.

Joel 3:10 (NIV)

¹⁰ Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears. Let the weakling say, 'I am strong!'

2 Corinthians 12:10c (NKJV)

"...For when I am weak, then I am strong."

SERMON NOTES

PRAY

¹⁷ pray without ceasing, **1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NKJV)**

THREE ELEMENTS TO EFFECTIVE PRAYING

1. Pray in faith.

Matthew 21:21-22 (NJB)

²¹ Jesus answered, 'In truth I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt at all, not only will you do what I have done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, "Be pulled up and thrown into the sea," it will be done.

²² And if you have faith, everything you ask for in prayer, you will receive.'

2. Pray with the right motive.

James 4:3 (CEV)

³ Yet even when you do pray, your prayers are not answered, because you pray just for selfish reasons.

3. Pray and don't give up.

Luke 18:1 (NLT)

¹ One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up.

GIVE

in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. **1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NKJV)**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (NKJV)

THREE ELEMENTS TO GIVING

1. Give cheerfully.

2 Corinthians 9:7 (GW)

⁷ Each of you should give whatever you have decided. You shouldn't be sorry that you gave or feel forced to give, since God loves a cheerful giver.

2. Give generously.

1 Chronicles 29:14 (GW)

¹⁴ But who am I and who are my people that you enable us to give so generously? Everything comes from you. We give you only what has come from your hands.

3. Give expectantly.

Luke 6:38 (TLB)

³⁸ For if you give, you will get! Your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use to give—large or small—will be used to measure what is given back to you."