

# The Kingdom of Heaven

# Kingdom Living

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Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,  
in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in  
Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-19

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1 Thessalonians 5:16-19

# Kingdom Living

Rejoice (to be exceedingly glad, to cheer) always (at all times, perpetually, continually, forever, evermore).

1 Thessalonians 5:16

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What does it mean to rejoice always?

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Matthew 2:10

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What does it mean to rejoice always?

“Rejoice and be (what) exceedingly glad, (why) for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Matthew 5:12

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So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.

And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!" So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.

Matthew 28:8-9

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How can we actually live in such a way that we can rejoice always, no matter our circumstances?

What must we do to become like that?

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Rejoice always,  
pray (how) without ceasing (incessantly, continually,  
without intermission).

1 Thessalonians 5:16-17

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Pray.

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1 Thessalonians 5:16-17

Pray.

And don't give in and don't give up.

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"Never give in, never give in, never, never, never, never— in nothing, great or small, large or petty— never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense. Never yield to force; never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy."

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Winston Churchill

October 29, 1941

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Therefore by Him (Christ) let us continually (constant, always) offer (what we choose to do) the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, (described as) giving thanks to His name.

Hebrews 13:15

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What am I to do then?

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Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,  
in (what) everything (each, every, any, all, the whole,  
everyone, all things, in totality, without exception)  
give (an action of free will and volition) thanks (to  
show oneself to be grateful, thankful, well-pleasing);  
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What does “in everything” really mean?

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What does “in everything” really mean?

Divorce

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What does “in everything” really mean?

Divorce

Death

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What does “in everything” really mean?

Divorce

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Financial Ruin

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What does “in everything” really mean?

Divorce

Death

Financial Ruin

Illness and Disease

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What does “in everything” really mean?

Divorce

Death

Financial Ruin

Illness and Disease

Trials, Tribulations and Persecutions

# Kingdom Living

My brethren, count it all joy when (what) you fall into various trials, (why) knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

James 1:2-4

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But I don't see trials as a good thing?

What more do I need to see things differently?

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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. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

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And we know that (what) all things work together for good to (who) those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:28

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The Sovereign Blessing of God in Salvation

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## The Sovereign Blessing of God in Salvation

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Romans 8:29-30

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## The Sovereign Blessing of God in Salvation

What then shall we say to these things?

If God is for us, who can be against us?

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Romans 8:31-32

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Who shall bring a charge against God's elect?  
It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns?  
It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen,  
who is even at the right hand of God,  
who also makes intercession for us.

Romans 8:33-34

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Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?  
Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or  
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As it is written:

“For Your sake we are killed all day long;  
We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

Romans 8:35-36

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The Sovereign Blessing of God in Salvation

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?  
Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or  
famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written:

“For Your sake we are killed all day long;  
We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

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## The Sovereign Blessing of God in Salvation

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life,  
nor angels nor principalities nor powers,  
nor things present nor things to come,  
nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing,  
shall be able to separate us from the love of God  
which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

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# Kingdom Living

The Real Reason for Always Rejoicing

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“Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”

Luke 10:20

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What if I choose to ignore what I already have and  
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What if I choose to ignore what I already have and instead choose to fret over what I don't?

What happens then?

# Kingdom Living

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

Do not quench the Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-19

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# Kingdom Living

Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench (extinguish, suppress, stifle, allow to go out) all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

Ephesians 6:16

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And do not grieve (to make sorrowful or sad, to grieve with sorrow) the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed (when) for the day of redemption.

Ephesians 4:30

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# Kingdom Living

Now as they sat and ate, Jesus said, “Assuredly, I say to you, one of you who eats with Me will betray Me.”

And they began to be sorrowful (to grieve with sorrow), and to say to Him one by one, “Is it I?”

And another said, “Is it I?”

Mark 14:18-19

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# Kingdom Living

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, (why) lest you sorrow (to grieve with sorrow) as others who have no hope.

1 Thessalonians 4:13

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## The Ten Lepers

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And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.

Luke 17:15-16

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Luke 17:15-16

# Kingdom Living

What are you thankful for today?



# Mom's a Little Girl Again

There's this favorite picture of mine,  
Mom is in a party dress, maybe 8, maybe 9,  
Dancing around having such a wonderful time,  
Not a worry on her mind.

Before her dad died, before the war,  
Before the lion of loss started to roar,  
When her heart was as light as her step on the floor,  
And what she was, she is, once more.

Mom's a little girl again,  
Talking to herself, walking with her friends,  
Some folks say she's at the end,  
But me I think it's preschool for heaven,  
Mom's a little girl again.

Her sixteenth winter, all the joy fled,  
One night after dinner, her daddy dropped dead,  
Selling off the farm, paying off the debt,  
All her dreams were turned to dread.

Into her sorrow, a lover came,  
Who stole her heart, found her laughter again,  
They weathered the Third Reich, four kids,  
and some pain.  
Nurse says she still whispers my father's name.

Mom's a little girl again,  
Talking to herself, walking with her friends,  
Some folks say she's at the end,  
But me I think it's preschool for heaven,  
Cause mom's a little girl again.



Not sure when it started to show,  
Children were all grown, grandchildren to grow,  
But somewhere her memory started to go,  
There's hardly anyone now she knows.

All she remembers are snips from the past,  
As she goes down the hall, like she's heading to class,  
A child at low tide, looking for colored glass,  
Little one on the knee of God at last.

Mom's a little girl again,  
Talking to herself, walking with her friends,  
Some folks say she's at the end,  
But me I think it's preschool for heaven,  
Cause mom's a little girl,  
My mom's a little girl,  
Ann's a little girl again.

# The Letter

# The Letter

The most beautiful words I ever read,  
Were locked in a drawer, by my mother's bed,  
Sent by the man she so long ago wed,  
As he called across a canyon of years.

The gone bye days being all that remain,  
As a sanity siege, captures her brain,  
He summed it all up in this simple refrain,  
On a page that was stained with his tears.

I have no regrets, I'm one lucky man,  
I was aimless and drifting, 'till you took my hand,  
You're my friend and my lover,  
My number one fan,  
And I always will love you, Ann.

