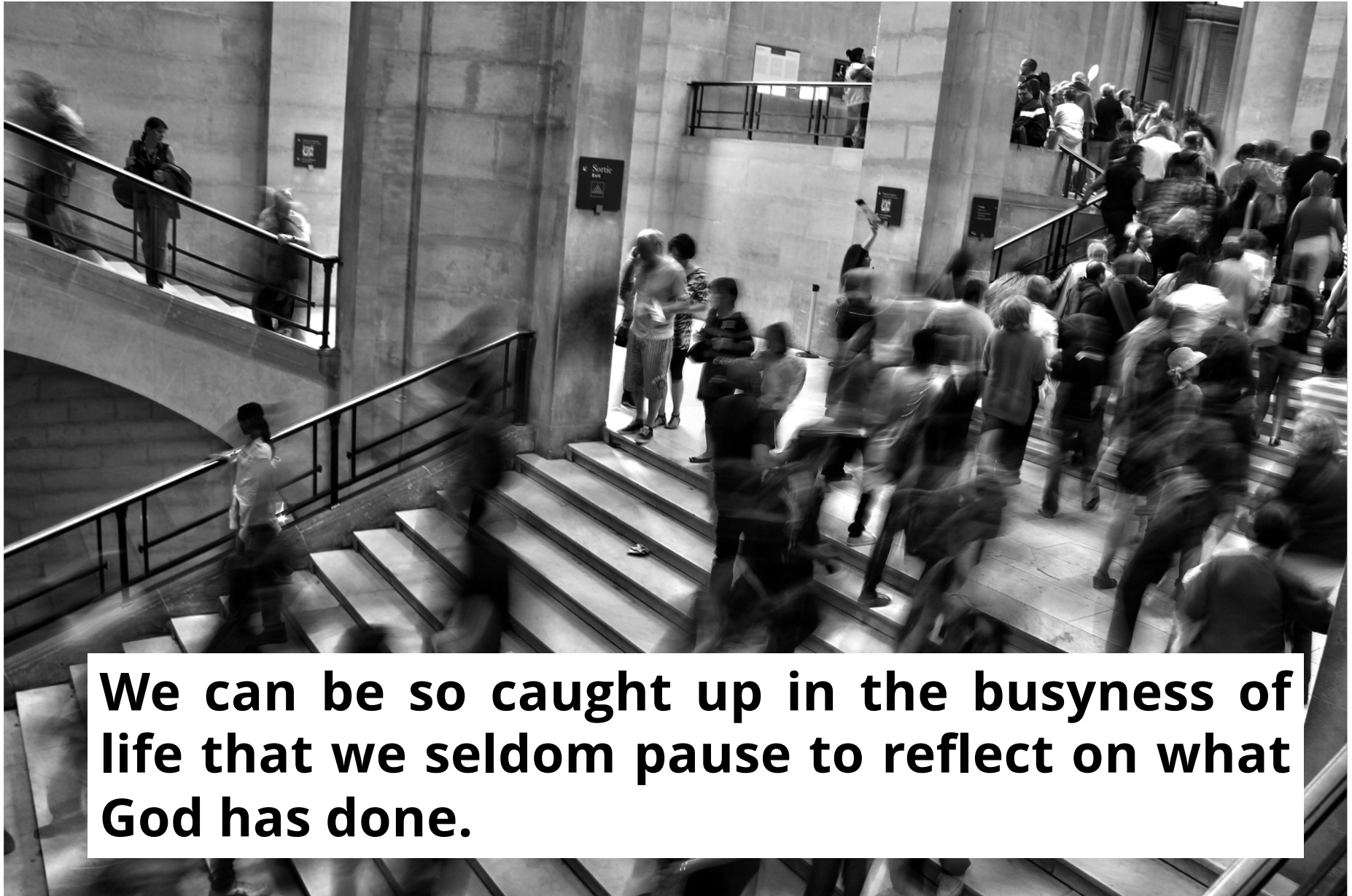


Thank God for 2024!

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



We can be so caught up in the busyness of life that we seldom pause to reflect on what God has done.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (ESV)

*¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing,
¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this
is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

Paul is addressing the CHURCH (v.16-19)

¹⁶ (as a church) Rejoice always, ¹⁷ (as a church) pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ (as a church) give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (the church).

These three key elements (Joy, Prayer & Thanksgiving) should be evident among God's people as we gather each week!

Three KEY ELEMENTS of our worship (v.16-18)

1. There should be joy (rejoicing) in our gathering together as God's people.
2. Persistent (constant) Prayer should be a natural part of our fellowship.
- 3. We should be thankful to God (in all circumstances) for what He has done.**

1. There should be JOY (rejoicing) in our gathering together as God's people. (v.16)

¹⁶ Rejoice always,

How can we rejoice always?

Within the church there should be constant joy because we know that we are the redeemed, chosen people of God whom He has promised will inherit eternal life!

1. There should be JOY (rejoicing) in our gathering together as God's people. (v.16)

Matthew 9:14-15 (ESV)

¹⁴ Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" ¹⁵ And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.

1. There should be JOY (rejoicing) in our gathering together as God's people. (v.16)

¹⁶ *Rejoice always,*

How can we rejoice *always*?

- Because we are the people of God.
- **Because Jesus is with us *always*.**
(*Matthew 5:14-15; Matthew 28:20*)

2. Persistent (constant) PRAYER should be a natural part of our fellowship. (v.17)

¹⁷ pray without ceasing

How can we pray *without ceasing*?

- None of us can live up to this (as individuals).
- **When we view this through the lens of the gathered body (the church) this is more possible for us.**

2. Persistent (constant) PRAYER should be a natural part of our fellowship. (v.17)

¹⁷ pray without ceasing

How can we pray *without ceasing*?

- None of us can live up to this (as individuals).
- Together (as the church) this is made possible for us.
- It is good to know that it's not just up to you or me.

3. We are to be THANKFUL in all circumstances for what God has done (and is doing) among us. (v.18a).

¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances

- It's hard to be thankful if we never pause long enough to reflect on what God has done.
- We have a lot to thank God for in 2024.

LET'S PAUSE AND GIVE THANKS TO HIM TODAY!

Some things we can be THANKFUL for in 2024...

1. New life in Christ Jesus.

- Praise God for bringing people from darkness to light, from death to life.
- Give thanks for His gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus.
- Remember this is His work, not ours!

PRAY NOW – IN GROUPS – GIVE THANKS TO GOD!

Some things we can be THANKFUL for in 2024...

2. Those who have **encouraged us** in our walk with the Lord.

- The children God has given into our care.
- The parents of young kid's who bring them along.
- The next generation (Youth & Young Adults).
- The parents of our teenagers trying their best.
- Those in the "deepening years" spurring us on.

PRAY NOW – IN GROUPS – GIVE THANKS TO GOD!

Some things we can be THANKFUL for in 2024...

3. For the work of **mission** this year (both local and abroad).

- Our ministry teams reaching out into our local community. (*Play Time, Craft Plus, Kids Club, Youth Group, Men's & Women's Ministry etc.*)
- The Christmas Outreach Event on December 8th.
- The volunteers who served this year.
- Those on mission in our schools (*Chaplains, Teachers, Admin & Support Staff*).
- Those who see their workplace as a mission field.
- For all our missionaries we support financially.

Some things we can be THANKFUL for in 2024...

4. For the **difficult times** this year.

- Giving thanks in difficult times does not mean God caused these things to happen. (*we live in a broken & fallen world*)
- God often meets us in our seasons of sorrow.
- He comforts us in our troubles so that we can comfort others. (2 Corinthians 1:4)

Some things we can be THANKFUL for in 2024...

4. For the **difficult times** this year.

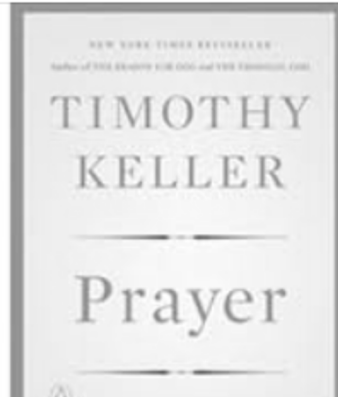


Timothy Keller ✓

24 August · 🌐



God always answers your prayers in precisely the way you want them to be answered if you knew everything he knew. Prayer.



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PRAY NOW – IN GROUPS – GIVE THANKS TO GOD!

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