



January 5, 2020  
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# The Standing Orders of the Gospel

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

## Good News for the New Year

No matter what happens this year,  
God has revealed His perfect **WILL** for our lives in the Bible!

### The Standing Orders of the Gospel No Matter What

## 1. ALWAYS Rejoice! (v. 16)

Always rejoice (NET); Always be joyful (NLT); Rejoice evermore! (KJV)

### What Does “Always Rejoicing” Mean?

Not **FAKING** it on the outside but **LIVING** it on the inside!

#### Yes, But How?

“These things I have spoken to you, **that My joy may be in you**” John 15:11

“**But the fruit of the Spirit is...joy...**” Galatians 5:22

“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and **joy in the Holy Spirit**.” Romans 14:17

“...for you received the Word in much affliction, **with the joy of the Holy Spirit**.” 1 Thessalonians 2:14

“May you be strengthened **with all power, according to [Jesus] glorious might**, for all endurance and patience with joy,” Colossians 1:11

Finally, my brothers, rejoice **in the Lord**.” Philippians 3:1

Rejoice **in the Lord** always; again I will say, rejoice.” Philippians 4:4

### This Is Why Gospel J-O-Y Is Spelled

**J** JESUS  
**O** OTHERS  
**Y** YOU

## 2. CONSTANTLY Pray! (v. 17)

Constantly pray (NET); Never stop praying (NLT); Pray continually! (NIV) Pray all the time (MSG)

### What Does “Constant Praying” Mean?

### What It Does **NOT** Mean and How **NOT** to Do It

- Does not mean **NON-STOP** praying.
- Does not mean always praying in a certain **POSTURE** or **PLACE**.

### What It **DOES** Mean and How to Actually **DO** It

“as we pray most earnestly night and day” 1Thessalonians 3:10

- An **ACTIVE** prayer life **no matter what is happening**.
- An **ATTITUDE** of prayer **no matter where you are**.

## 3. IN ALL THINGS Give Thanks! (v. 17)

in everything give thanks” (NET); Be thankful in all circumstances” (NLT); thank God no matter what happens” (MSG)

### What Does “In All Things Give Thanks” Mean?

Not giving thanks **FOR** all things but giving thanks **IN** all things!

#### Yes, But How?

- **REMEMBER** who holds you and the future in His hand for your good and His glory.  
Romans 8:28-39
- **REST** in the glorious, gracious, gospel reality that God’s majestic, mysterious, and merciful ways are greater than ours.  
Romans 11:33-36; Isaiah 55:9; Job 1:21

### No Matter What Happens in 2020

“...this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

- Are you already “in Christ Jesus”?** This is God’s will for you no matter what happens!  
Those who are truly in Christ Jesus learn by faith to obey these commands.
- Are you not yet “in Christ Jesus”?** This is God’s will for you no matter who you are!  
In Christ Jesus these commands can become a reality for anyone here today.