

As I mentioned in my sermon a few weeks ago, it is important to share what God is doing in our life with our fellow Christians, as well as those who don't believe. The following is a little more personal than I normally do, but I want to share what He has done in our life this week. Thank you all for your prayers and I continue to hope and pray that you all will stay safe and well. God bless, Kay

1 Thessalonians 5

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray continually, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (NIV)

These verses are included in Paul's final instructions at the end of his first letter to the Thessalonians. The notes in one study Bible posed an interesting question, "Is it possible to pray continually?" Paul wanted believers to pray regularly and often, but, more than that, he wanted them to live prayerfully. Prayer is more than spoken words; it is the acknowledgement that God is always present and that we are constantly dependent on Him. Praying continually is recognizing that all our actions are done before Him and that every conversation includes Him.

These unusual circumstances in our life right now make us aware of just how dependent we are on Him. Because of our current situation, it may seem hard to rejoice. But our joy shouldn't be in whether or not our life is going well; our joy should be found in the Lord and in what He has done for us. Living a prayerful life should help us to be thankful in all circumstances, good or bad.

Isaiah 55 *⁸"For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,"
declares the LORD.
⁹"As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

These passages may not be ones that you first think of during Lent, but they've been on my mind during the week, especially 'pray continually' and His ways and thoughts being higher than ours. On Monday evening, my husband received a phone call that his sister had fallen at her home. She was transported to a local hospital with symptoms of a stroke. The next morning, after five phone calls, we found out she had been transferred to Hershey. The doctor told us that she had a 'significant' stroke. By late Tuesday afternoon, we found out by phone that she was up walking and talking. A scan done at Holy Spirit hospital showed the stroke; **the same type of scan done at Hershey later was clear.** She came home Thursday with instructions to resume normal activity. Just as we don't always understand why bad things happen, sometimes His wondrous ways are also beyond our understanding. Doctors cannot explain what happened, but we are grateful for the miracle.

Ephesians 3 *¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.