

Stories 3.0: God's Will For You

Today's Story: Patricia Pennington

📖 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (NLT) “Always be joyful. ¹⁷ Never stop praying. ¹⁸ Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.”

God’s will for you is to **be joyful** all the time.

- 📖 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (NLT) “Always be joyful.”
- 📖 Galatians 5:22–23a (NIV) “...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control.”
- 📖 John 15:5 (NIV) “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”
- 📖 John 15:9–11 (NIV) “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in His love. ¹¹ I have told you this SO THAT MY JOY MAY BE IN YOU and that YOUR JOY may be complete.”
- 📖 1 Peter 1:8–9 (NIV) “Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”
- 📖 Philippians 4:4 (NIV) “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”

God’s will for you is to **talk with Him** all the time.


- 📖 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NLT) “Never stop praying.”
- 📖 James 5:16 (NIV) “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”
- 📖 James 5:16 (MSG) “Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with.”

📖 Philippians 4:6 (NLT) “Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done.”

- 📖 Genesis 2:7 (NIV) “...God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.”
- 📖 Psalm 116:2 (NLT) “Because He bends down to listen, I will pray as long as I have breath!”

God’s will for you is to **be thankful** all the time.

- 📖 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NLT) “Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.”
- 📖 Ephesians 5:19b–20 (NIV) “Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- 📖 Romans 8:28 (NIV) “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.”

Digging Deeper: How often do you read God’s Word? Did you know that  much of God’s will for your life is already written in the Bible? How is your prayer life? Have you learned to be thankful even when life is hard? --If so, what helped you do that? Is there indisputable evidence that your joy goes deeper than a surface smile