



[TOP](#)

# Daily Devotional - Tuesday, April 30, 2019 - An Awareness of God

APRIL 30TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

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## 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

The three commands in today's passage may look simple because they're short, but many people find them challenging to obey. Our lives are so full of responsibilities and activities that it's all we can do to keep up our schedules, let alone live as these verses command. There's only one way to succeed—not by trying harder but by focusing on Christ. When He becomes the center of our attention, our attitude and behavior will change.

**Rejoice Always.** The realization that our omnipotent God is constantly with us puts troubling circumstances in their proper place—under His authority. It also helps us sense the incomparable joy of His companionship, even in difficulties and suffering.

**Pray without ceasing.** It's important to set aside time each day to come before the Lord with our problems and requests. But believers also long for an ongoing attitude of prayer, which, like a continual conversation, is expressed either verbally or in our thoughts. Then if a decision is required or trouble comes, our first thought is to turn to God for help.

**Give thanks in everything.** If our minds are set on the Lord each day, we'll be able to thank Him regardless of the situation. That's because we know He is with us and will work everything for our good—if not here, then in heaven.

These three admonitions are a call to become preoccupied with Christ. If we are consumed with other thoughts, it's easy to feel irritated, worry unceasingly, and complain about everything. But when we begin each day in God's Word, we are reminded of His instructions and His care.

LAST UPDATED ON APRIL 30TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

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