

THE MESSENGER

Weekly Publication of First Baptist Church, Clanton, Alabama (205) 755-3840
"Leading others to know Jesus Christ"

Rev. Matthew DeBord, Pastor

February 14, 2019

Treasuring His Word

From the Pastor's Heart:

"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-19).

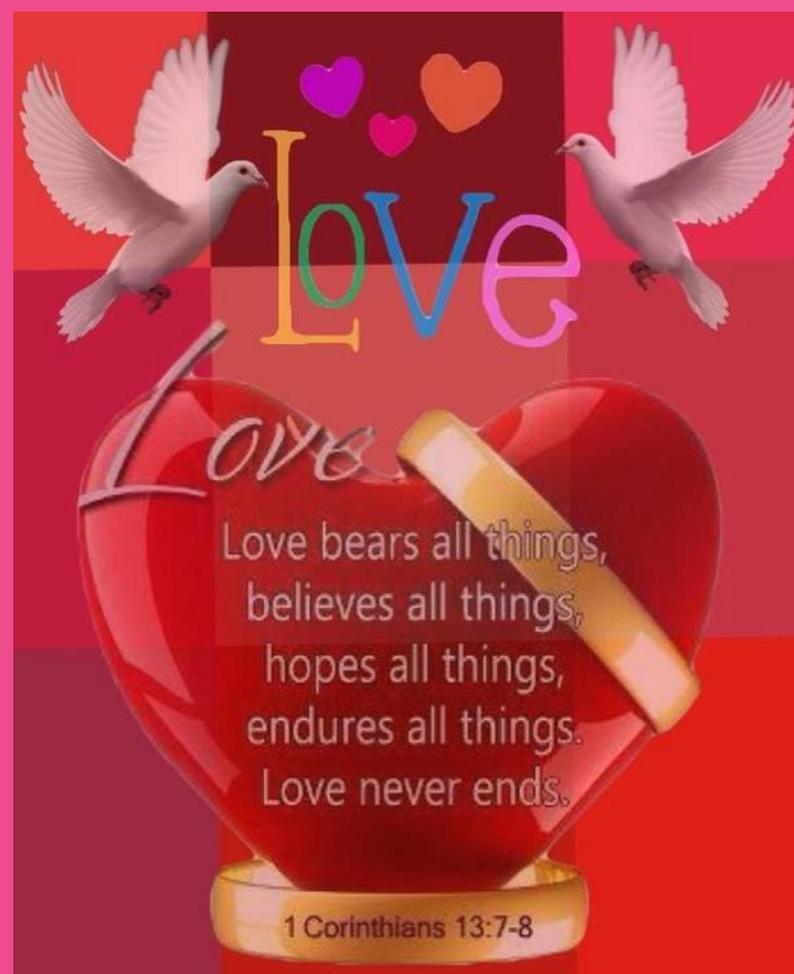
Most of us have heard these verses all our lives. The crucial point is whether or not we have applied them, or given thought as to why we would rejoice and give thanks "in everything." We often rationalize reasons to be rightfully upset about circumstances and then proceed to express our bitterness, anger, or discouragement. But the key to this passage is found in the phrases, "pray without ceasing" and "do not quench the Spirit."

When I used to go somewhere with my father, I knew he had things in mind for the journey. We would talk and fellowship along the way, but occasionally "something would happen" that may not have been so pleasant, something unforeseen. But since I was with him, I would simply watch to see how he responded to it, and what he did to handle the situation. I had no problem "staying out of his way" as he worked things out. If he asked for my help, or directed me to do something in the midst of it, I would simply and immediately do it.

If we are "praying without ceasing," we are "with" our Heavenly Father. As we encounter circumstances along the way that are unforeseen, we can know that the situation did not surprise God at all. He knew what was going to happen. And because He is the Almighty Sovereign of the Universe, we should have no problem "staying out of His way" while He works things out. And if He asks us to assist Him in any way, we should be overjoyed to serve Him immediately. Knowing that He said through James to "consider it all joy when you encounter trials," we are "quenching His Spirit" when we fail to rejoice and give thanks. We are failing to believe that He has some training and growth in mind for us as we encounter these things. We "quench" whatever it is that He desires to do in us, through us, or for us. If we are not walking with Him ("praying without ceasing"), we will not even recognize this process. Therefore, we will not only quench the working of His Spirit, but we will also miss out on the benefit of the spiritual growth He had in mind for us.

Therefore, walk with the Lord, giving thanks in everything, knowing that He will give you strength, victory, and a reason to rejoice always!

**THIS IS A REMINDER FOR OUR LADIES
WHO WILL BE ATTENDING THE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE ON
SATURDAY, FEB. 16, 2019 @ FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OPELIKA
301 SOUTH 8TH STREET, OPELIKA, AL 36801
LADIES THAT HAVE PURCHASED TICKETS WILL MEET AT THE CHURCH
@ 2:00 P.M./TRANSPORTATION IS PROVIDED.**



DEACONS OF THE WEEK: FEB. 17TH
CARY ROBINSON, JOHN SULLIVAN

CHURCH SECURITY:
KEVIN DAVIS' TEAM

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2019

8:15 A.M. - ORCHESTRA PRACTICE
9:15 A.M. - SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:30 A.M. - MORNING WORSHIP
6:00 P.M. - PRAISEMAKERZ CHOIR
6:00 P.M. - NOISEMAKERZ CHOIR
6:00 P.M. - EVENING SERVICE
7:00 P.M. - YOUTH SNAC

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20, 2019

4:30 P.M. - HANDBELLS (CAMPBELL BLDG)
5:00 P.M. - FAMILY SUPPER
5:30 P.M. - AWANA
5:45 P.M. - PRAYER MEETING
6:30 P.M. - CHOIR PRACTICE
6:30 P.M. - E3 STUDENT MINISTRIES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019

6:30 P.M. - STITCH 'N PRAY

Peace by Piece meet every 1st and 3rd Friday @ 9:00 a.m. in the Campbell Bldg.

Fellowship
Dinner

February 13th Bar-B-Que, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Salad, Tea & Dessert

February 20th Spaghetti, BBQ Bread, Salad, Tea and Dessert