

## Suggested Discussion Questions for 11/5/2023

### Message: Thriving with the Thessalonians, pt 11 (1 Thes. 5:16-18)

1. When you read this rapid-fire set of commands, what is your first response?
2. If joy is always an option, what contributes to living without joy?
3. What does it require to choose joy when your life setting isn't inherently joyful?
4. How was your understanding of *praying without ceasing* enhanced or encouraged in this study?
5. What does it mean to "practice the presence" of God and how do you do it practically?
6. How do you understand the connection between devoted prayer and unflagging resolve prayer (*praying without ceasing*)?
7. How do you cultivate thanksgiving in your life? In what way(s) is it a choice (like with rejoicing)?
8. How would you explain the difference between gratitude IN and FOR everything? Why is the distinction important?
9. How can understanding the punctiliar (moment in time) and progressive nature of these commands help us as we grow into them?
10. Since these commands are clearly God's will for us, which one is most compelling for you to focus on this week? Why?
11. What would you like to discuss about this passage that hasn't already been addressed?