

Authentic Spirituality

1 Thessalonians 5:16-22

November 20, 2022 | Jason Finley, Lead Pastor for Equipping

What is authentic spirituality?

Are we bored with the message and mission we've been given?

BIG IDEA: The hope of the Gospel produces authentic spirituality.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (ESV) | 18 ...for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

"Through the blessings of grace, walking with Jesus is no longer a forced march of merit...but a willing response of love, gratitude, and thanksgiving." - **Bryan Chapell, *Unlimited Grace***

I. Love (leaders, one another, enemies) (vv. 12-15)

II. Steadfast Joy (v. 16)

1 Thessalonians 5:16 | Rejoice always,

1 Thessalonians 1:6 | And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit,

1 Thessalonians 3:1-5 | 1 Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, 2 and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, 3 that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. 4 For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know. 5 For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain.

Galatians 5:22 | The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy...

2 Corinthians 6:4-10 | 4 by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5 beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; 6 by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; 7 by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; 8 through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; 9 as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; 10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

John 11:35 | Jesus wept.

Hebrews 12:2 | Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

III. Continual Communion (vv. 17, 19)

1 Thessalonians 5:17, 19 | 17 pray without ceasing...19 Do not quench the Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 4:11, 5:11, 14 | “work with your hands,” “build one another up,” and “admonish the idle,”

Romans 8:26 | Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

Ephesians 6:18 | praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

John 16:4b-15 | 4 I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. 5 But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; 11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. 12 “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. 15 All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” by Joseph Scriven

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,

all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

IV. Thankful Posture (v. 18)

1 Thessalonians 5:18 | give thanks in all circumstances;

Romans 1:21 | Neither were they thankful

2 Timothy 3:1-2 | 1 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. 2 For people will be... ungrateful....

“Do not pore upon your losses—but ponder upon your mercies...A gracious heart spies out mercy in every condition.” - **Thomas Watson, *The Art of Divine Contentment***

V. Devotion to Truth (vv. 20-22)

1 Thessalonians 5:20-22 | 20 Do not despise prophecies, 21 but test everything; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil.

2 Thessalonians 2:2 | not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

**Are the prophetic and revelatory gifts of the Spirit in operation today?
Comparing Continuationism and Cessationism**

Continuationism (“Continue”) [Pentecostal, Charismatic]

- Revelatory (or “sign” or “miraculous”) gifts continue to be distributed by the Holy Spirit and are operational in the church today
- 1 Corinthians 14:1 Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.
- No biblical directive instructs the church to no longer heed these instructions

Cessationism (“Cease”)

- Revelatory gifts have ceased with the closing of the canon
- Ephesians 2:19-20 ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,
- Does not deny God’s miraculous power, activity, or summons to pray for miraculous works
- Authenticated the message and messengers in the new era of the church
- Church history evidences the cessation of revelatory gifts in the first century
- Continuationism undermines the sufficiency of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:3-4)

Prophecy - God speaking to humanity through the means of a human messenger.

Five Tests of Truth (from John Stott)

1. Plain truth of Scripture
2. Jesus’ divine-human nature
3. Gospel
4. The character of the speaker
5. Edifies and benefits the church

Benediction

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 | 23 Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.