



November 23, 2025
Pastor Brian Erickson

“Enjoying the Abundant Life of Jesus: Thankful Life”

1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

1 Thessalonians 5:12-18 – “But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction,¹³and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.¹⁴We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.¹⁵See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.¹⁶Rejoice always;¹⁷pray without ceasing;¹⁸in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

Introduction: The Church in Thessalonica was a young church that was facing several problems.

- Christians were living carelessly; refusing to respect Church leadership.
- They were abusing the time of worship.
- There was a desperate need for holiness...love...honesty...& harmony among the saints.

To create an atmosphere in the church for family worship...Paul starts by saying...

1. Be Respectful (vv.12-13)

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 – “But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction,¹³and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.”

2. Be Mindful and Merciful (vv.14-15)

1 Thessalonians 5:14 – “We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.”

How do you exhort someone?

A. Admonish the Unruly

2 Thessalonians 3:6-7, 11 – (v. 6b) “keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.” (v.7b) “because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you” (v.11) “some among you are leading an undisciplined life doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies.”

Titus 3:10 – “Reject a factious man after a first and second warning.”

B. Encourage the Fainthearted

C. Help the Weak

Romans 14:1 – “Accept the weak.”

Romans 15:1 – “Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just to please ourselves.”

1 Corinthians 9:22 – “To the weak I become weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some.”

D. Be Patient with Everyone

James 1:4 – “And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

1 Thessalonians 5:15 – “See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.”

Proverbs 24:29 – “Do not say, “Thus I shall do to him as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to his work.”

Luke 6:45 – “Jesus says, ‘The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.’”

3. Be Joyful (v.16)

1 Thessalonians 5:16 – “Rejoice always;”

4. Be Prayerful (v.17)

1 Thessalonians 5:17 – “Pray without ceasing;”

Romans 12:12 – Paul tells the Romans to be “devoted to prayer.”

Colossians 4:12 – Paul tells the Colossians, “Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bondslave of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God.”

1 Timothy 2:8 – Paul tells Timothy, “Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension.”

5. Be Thankful (v.18)

1 Thessalonians 5:18 – “in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

Colossians 3:16 – “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

“Singing with thankfulness in your hearts to the Lord.”

Ephesians 5:20 – “always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does God want us to regard our church leaders?
2. What does it mean to live in “peace with one another”, and how can we do that?
3. What are ways to admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, and be patient with everyone?
4. What situations tend to test your patience with others?
5. What are some strategies to “rejoice always” and “pray without ceasing”?
6. How does being thankful in all circumstances change your perspective on life’s challenges?