

Sermon Notes 11/21/21
“The Spirit-Filled Life”
How do we live a Spirit-filled life?

1. _____ our spiritual leaders.
1 Thessalonians 5:12-13
Acts 20:28

2. Work _____ for spiritual growth.
1 Thessalonians 5:14-15
Ephesians 4:15-16

3. Continue to _____ with joy and gratitude.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
Romans 8:26-27

4. _____ God’s word and God’s work.
1 Thessalonians 5:19-22
1 Thessalonians 5:23-24



**“And is your husband working now,
or is he still in the ministry?”¹**

¹ Mary Chambers, *Church Is Stranger Than Fiction* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1990), 11.

Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 7: November 21

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

In several of Paul's epistles, he concludes with a list of practical instructions for spiritual growth. 1 Thessalonians is no exception. The last 16 verses of the letter contain 19 imperatives for spiritual growth. Near the end of this list, we find the command, "Do not quench the Spirit" (NASB). The implication is that when we follow these commands, we are working together with the Holy Spirit. But when we reject or neglect these commands, we are quenching the Spirit (4:8).

Read Thessalonians 5:12-28

1. How did Paul describe the work of the church leaders in Thessalonica? (2:12)
2. How does God want us to regard our church leaders? (5:12-13)
3. What is the connection between Christians living in peace with each other and Christians respecting their leaders? (5:13)

Jon Weatherly observes,

"Peace" is, of course, a primary consequence of being a Christian (1:1) and belonging to "the God of peace" (5:23). It must be put into practice continually (the verb is again in the Greek present tense) in all aspects of the church's life. But Paul's placing the instruction here may reflect his recognition that maintaining genuine harmony and cooperation is especially crucial in relationships between spiritual leaders and those in their care.²

4. How can we help Christians who are idle, timid, or weak? (5:14)
5. What should we do instead of paying back wrong for wrong? (5:15)
6. When should we be joyful? (5:16)

² Jon A. Weatherly, *The College Press NIV Commentary: 1 & 2 Thessalonians* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1996), 181.

7. When should we pray? (5:17)

8. When should we be thankful? (5:18)

9. Why should we always be joyful, prayerful, and thankful? (5:16-18)

As in 4:3, Paul again reminds us of God’s will for our lives. F.F. Bruce writes,

Christian life is to be lived in an atmosphere of continuous joy, prayer, and thanksgiving... To “pray without ceasing” does not mean that every other activity must be dropped for the sake of prayer, but that every activity must be carried on in a spirit of prayer which is the spontaneous outcome of a sense of God’s presence. As for thanksgiving, that is the natural response of a heart conscious of the greatness of God’s grace.³

10. What is the command in verse 19? How is this verse similar to Ephesians 4:30?

11. What is the command in verse 20? What does that mean?

12. Why did Paul tell the Thessalonians to “test everything”? (5:21-22)

Weatherly notes,

In place of naive acceptance of everything claiming to be prophecy, Paul calls for the testing of prophecy. In this respect his words are no less applicable today, even among Christians who do not believe that the gift of prophecy still operates in the church as it did then. The need to test all kinds of ideas from all kinds of sources—including claims to modern-day miraculous gifts of the Spirit—is just as necessary now as it was then, and the stakes are just as serious. And the standard by which the test is made, now as then, can be nothing other than the apostolic gospel, delivered to us through the New Testament itself.⁴

13. What was Paul’s prayer for the Thessalonians in verse 23?

³ F. F. Bruce, *Word Biblical Commentary 1 & 2 Thessalonians* (Waco, TX: Word Books, 1982), 127.

⁴ Weatherly, *The College Press NIV Commentary: 1 & 2 Thessalonians*, 186-187.

14. What can we trust God to do for us in verse 24?

In the previous chapter, Paul said that it is God's will for Christians to be sanctified (4:3). In 5:23, he prays for God to sanctify the Thessalonians. And here in verse 24, he is confident that God do it. We must rely on the Spirit of God to transform us and develop the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. However, our sanctification requires our active cooperation.

Mark Howell explains,

That God Himself was going to sanctify them was not to imply that the Thessalonians had no role in the process. Paul had just outlined for them a series of commands to obey (4:3-10; 5:12-22). While sanctification is the work of God, believers must still assume an active role in this process by obeying God's Word, following God's will, and surrendering to God's Spirit.⁵

15. What did Paul ask the Thessalonians to do for him in verse 25?

16. How did Christians greet each other in the 1st century? (5:26)

17. What did Paul tell the Thessalonians to do with this letter? (5:27)

18. How did Paul conclude this letter? (5:28)

19. How can we show respect for the elders of our church?

20. How can we be sincerely joyful in difficult times?

21. How can prayer help us to be joyful and thankful?

22. What are some blessings that come with being thankful?

23. How can we help or hinder God's work within us?

24. Which of Paul's short, direct commands in this passage do you most need to remember this week?

25. With whom do you need to make peace? How can you start?

⁵ Mark Howell, *Exalting Jesus in 1 & 2 Thessalonians* (Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2015), 170-171.