

Foundations

God's Effect

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

In our walk with God, the first step is being saved, covered in last week's message on God's Work. Today, we are going to talk about the subsequent, inevitable steps of walking with God in a message I've entitled, **God's Effect**.

"For we walk by faith, not by sight." **2 Corinthians 5:7**

"He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" **Micah 6:8**

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." **Psalms 119:105**

"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh." **Galatians 5:16**

Effect: "A change which is a result or consequence of an action or other cause."

Main Idea: The Effect of God's Saving Work is a Changed Life

"Finally, then, brothers, we ask & urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk & to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more & more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness & honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress & wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand & solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you. Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more & more, & to aspire to live quietly, & to mind your own affairs, & to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders & be dependent on no one."

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Three Evidences of God's Effect on a Christian:

I. God's Effect on Temptation

*"Finally, then, brothers, we ask & urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk & to **please God**, just as you are doing, that you do so more & more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your **sanctification**: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness & honor."* **1 Thessalonians 4:1-4**

"Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed into the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness." **Westminster Shorter Catechism**

"Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, & things like these. I warn you as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." **Galatians 5:19-23**

II. God's Effect on Relationships

*"Not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress & wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand & solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you. Now concerning **brotherly love** you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more & more."* **1 Thessalonians 4:5-10**

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." **John 13:34-35**

*"The clearest mark of God's grace in your life is a generous spirit toward others. You should daily think on the grace of God shown you in Christ, and pray: 'As You have been to me, so I will be to others.'" **J.D. Greear***

III. God's Effect on Communities

"And to aspire to live quietly, & to mind your own affairs, & to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders & be dependent on no one." **1 Thessalonians 4:11-12**

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." **Matthew 5:14-16**

"We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed." **Salem Church Statement of Faith (Article 8)**

As we said in the beginning, following Jesus is a walk that begins with a first step and has a destination, and our destination is Christlikeness! We may not fully attain it until heaven, but each day on this journey with Jesus draws us closer to His image...

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit." **2 Corinthians 3:18**

As you Embrace God's work, you will Experience God's Effect in your Temptation, Your Relationships and Your Community.

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:

- *The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict* – Josh McDowell (1999)
- *Theology for the Church* – Daniel L. Akin (2007)
- *Wiersbe Bible Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (2007)
- *New Illustrated Bible Dictionary* – Ronald F. Youngblood (1995)
- *MacArthur New Testament Commentary* – John MacArthur (2004)
- *Strong's Concordance* – James Strong (1890)
- *Tony Evans Book of Illustrations* – Tony Evans (2009)
- *Swindoll's Ultimate Book of Illustrations & Quotes* – Charles Swindoll (1998)
- *How to Connect with God* – James Merritt (2010)
- *God, I've got a Question* – James Merritt (2011)
- *Knowing God* – J.I. Packer (1973)
- *Doctrine* – Mark Driscoll (2010)
- *Gospel* – J.D. Greear (2011)

