



Message Series Guide

Living Hope

Part 7 – Living Faith

I Thessalonians 5:12-28

Faith is not just something we have. Faith is something that is alive in us, growing and striving to obtain holiness in Christ. For the local church, the principles set forth in 5:12-28 are more than just practical. They are indispensable. God has called His people to love one another genuinely and to love Christ devotedly. God's desire for His church is to be more than a superficial gathering of people. His desire for the church is to be a family of believers devoted to His Word, committed to one another and steadfast in holiness.

READ:

**I Thessalonians 5:12-28 • I Peter 5:1-3 • Hebrews 13:17 • 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 10-11
Romans 12:17-19 • Luke 14:26-33 • I Corinthians 1:8-9 • I Corinthians**

- Why does Paul command the church to give recognition to those who serve as pastors? How should people respond to their pastors?
- According to this passage, what are the responsibilities of the pastor to the people?
- Why are healthy relationships among the Body of Christ so vital to unity? What hinders people within the church from developing meaningful relationships with one another?
- What does the word, *admonish*, mean? What does Paul mean by “admonish those who are idle”?
- Describe the difference between the “discouraged” and the “weak”. Why are many people reluctant to come alongside and help those in these categories?
- Why did Paul conclude the section on interpersonal relationships by admonishing that church not to “repay evil for evil”? How role does grace play in our relationships with fellow believers?
- Explain how believers can practice the command to “pray without ceasing.”
- What are some ways the church is guilty of neglecting the importance of preaching the Word of God?
- What are some practical ways Christians can obey the command to “test all things?”
- What guarantee does God make to His people in 5:23-24 about holiness? What hope does this promise bring to those who are growing in faith?

DISCUSS:

- How would you define Christian sanctification to a non-Christian? When does the work of sanctification begin? What is the end goal of sanctification? What role do we play in our sanctification?
- What's the difference between happiness and joy? Why do you think some Christians struggle to find joy? What can be done to experience joy and express gratitude in all things?
- Why did Paul command the church to read this letter? Do you think Paul was aware that he had written inspired Scripture?

PRAY:

Pray that your faith continues to be a living faith that strives for holiness.

RESPOND:

Pick one of the eight identifying marks of holiness and focus on developing it further this week: (Rejoice always; Pray without ceasing; Give thanks in all situations; Do not quench the Holy Spirit; Do not despise the prophecies; Test everything; Hold fast to what is good; Abstain from evil).