



1 THESSALONIANS
Faith for Today & Hope for Tomorrow

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*Faith for
Today*

&

*Hope for
Tomorrow*

Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. ² For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴ that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, ⁵ not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶ that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. ⁷ For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. ⁸ Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

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9 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, **10** for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, **11** and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, **12** so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

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Walking in Light of the Gospel

How does the church walk in light of the gospel?

- 1. The nature of our walk**
- 2. The outworking of our walk**
- 3. The witness of our walk**



1. The Nature of Our Walk

1 Thessalonians 4:1-2

❖ How do we walk **and** please God... and do so more and more?

a) **We embrace our new identity in Christ**

- Ephesians 2:1-5

“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ.”

1. The Nature of Our Walk

1 Thessalonians 4:1-2

❖ How do we walk **and** please God... and do so more and more?

b) We embrace a new path

- The Holy Spirit's indwelling in our hearts gives us new desires and direction

Sanctification - the lifelong process by which God purifies or cleanses us from our sin and conforms us into the image of His son, Jesus Christ

- God is reworking our heart's desires to line up with His; to hate what He hates and to love what He loves!

1. The Nature of Our Walk

1 Thessalonians 4:1-2

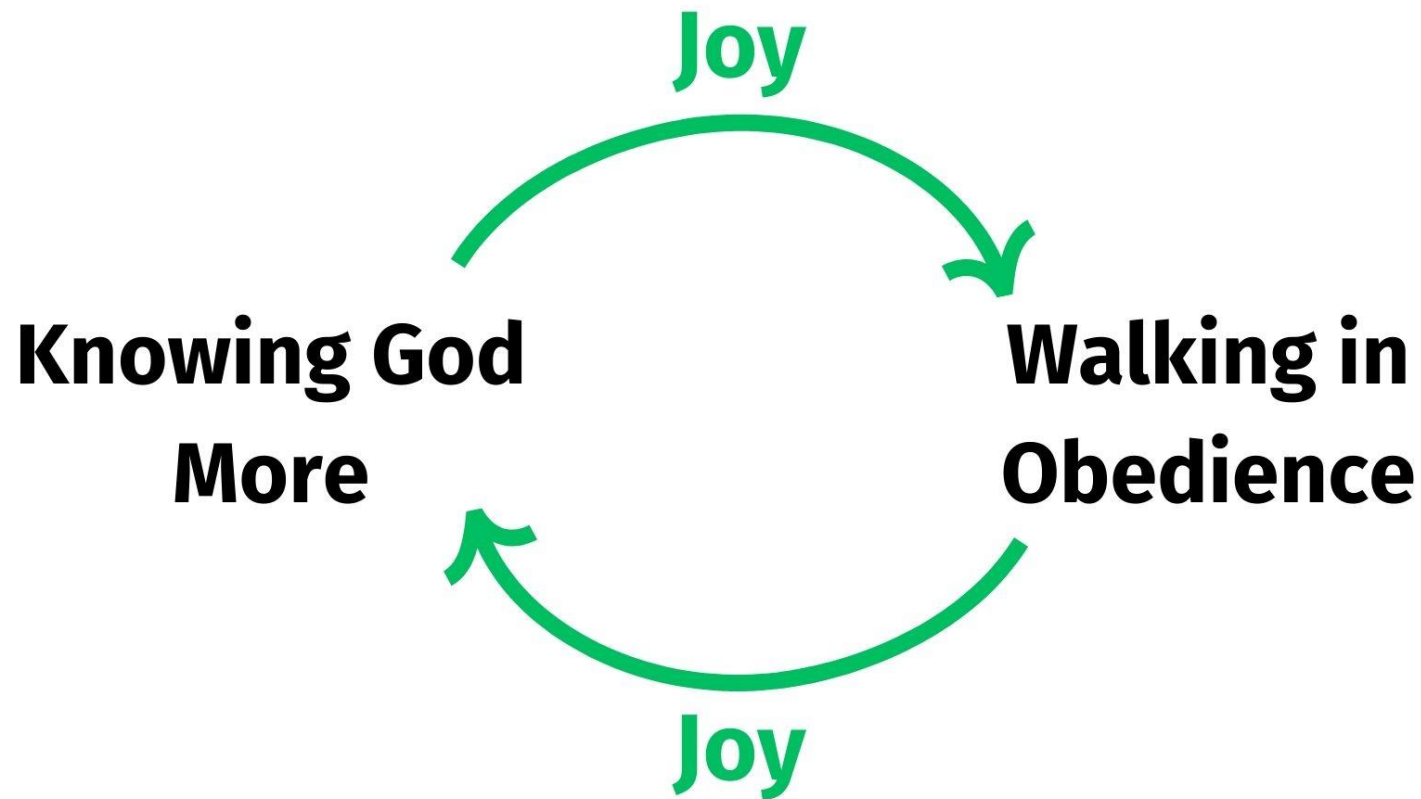
❖ How do we walk **and** please God... and do so more and more?

c) Take new steps of faith

- “We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, **we too might walk in newness of life.**” (Romans 6:4)

Walking in faith takes **action** – by the Spirit, we join in God’s redemptive work in our lives.

1. The Nature of Our Walk



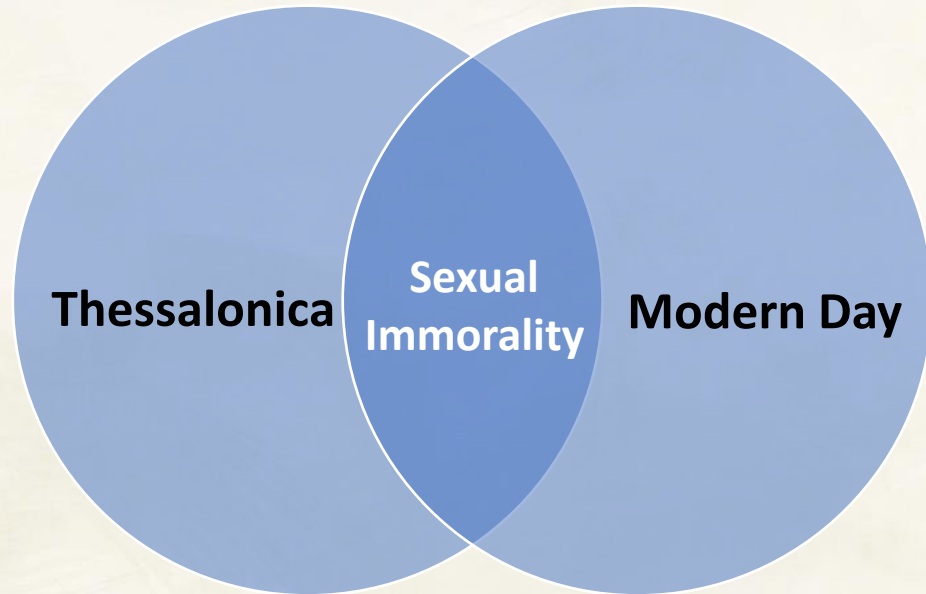
“Our pleasure
and our duty,
Though opposite
before;
Since we have
seen His beauty,
Are joined to
part no more.”

- *John Newton, “We Were
Once as You Are”*

2. The Outworking of Our Walk

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

❖ The will of God for us → sanctification from sin



Sexual Immorality is a major hindrance to the church walking in holiness

- Recent stats show that:
 - 70% of men and 40% of women view pornography
 - 93% of teenage boys and 62% of teenage girls have been exposed to inappropriate sexual content

2. The Outworking of Our Walk

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

❖ The will of God for us → sanctification from sin

a) Abstain from sexual immorality (v. 3)

- Matthew 5: 27-30

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, **tear it out and throw it away**. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, **cut it off and throw it away**. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

2. The Outworking of Our Walk

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

❖ The will of God for us → sanctification from sin

b) Understand the impact of sin on those around us

- 1 Thessalonians 4: 4-6a

“For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴ that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, ⁵ not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶ that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter...”

Sexual sin leads to a heart posture of self-indulgence and selfish thinking

- Our relationships with others become shallow and dehumanizing

2. The Outworking of Our Walk

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

❖ The will of God for us → sanctification from sin

c) Understanding that we are sinning against a holy and righteous God

- 1 Thessalonians 4: 6b-8

“...because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. ⁷ For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. ⁸ Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.”

“Be killing sin or sin will be killing you” – John Owen; *Mortification of Sin*

2. The Outworking of Our Walk

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8



❖ Sanctification is a community effort

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3. The Witness of Our Walk

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

❖ How does the Gospel impact how the church lives among the world?

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” (1 Peter 2:9)

a) Living in faithful presence

- Escapism— “Since God matters, nothing matters”
- Faithful presence— “Since God matters, everything matters”

“God does not *need* our good works – but your neighbor does” -
Martin Luther

3. The Witness of Our Walk

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

❖ How does the Gospel impact how the church lives among the world?

b) **God makes our work worthwhile**

- 1 Thessalonians 4: 11-12

“...and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, ¹² so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.”

In light of Jesus’s return, our work—vocationally, and to grow in holiness—have great meaning.



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