

The Promise of God's Faithfulness
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Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-28

1 Thessalonians: [Bibliography](#) or [Manuscripts and Greek Exegesis](#)

UBS 4th Edition Paragraph Topic: Final Exhortations and Greetings

Central Idea of Message: God is faithful to carry out all that he has said he would do.

Introduction: In this closing section of 1 Thessalonians, Paul promises his readers that God is faithful, and can, therefore, be trusted. Paul also issues some pleas regarding prayer and greeting one another. God is faithful to carry out all that he has said he would do.

I. The Promises of God's Faithfulness (vv. 23-24)

A. God himself sanctifies entirely (v. 23)

1. No person can sanctify himself or herself
 - a) God does what the great apostle could not do even with all his admonitions and epistles!
 - b) God does what no man or woman can do for himself or herself, namely, completely purify
2. God is the God of peace
 - a) Peace follows the holiness of sanctification
 - b) Peace is an attribute of God's nature
 - c) Peace is God's to bestow gladly upon all who receive Christ
 - d) Peace intimates reconciliation of an estranged relationship with God
3. Believers are to be preserved complete without blame
 - a) **Spirit: the designation for that part of mankind which can have interaction with God**
 - b) **Soul: the designation for that part of mankind which represents the natural principles of life**
 - c) **Body: the designation for that part of mankind which can have interaction with the world by way of sensory perception**

4. Complete: three components comprise the human self just as three persons comprise the godhead
 - a) The trinity cannot be fragmented
 - b) The human self cannot be fragmented
 - (1) God saves the whole self
 - (2) **This reference is intended to describe the indivisible personality of the human self**
 - (3) **This is not intended to be pressed as describing three separate entities within the self**
5. Blameless: no indictment of sin can be made against any Christian even now
6. Jesus is coming again
 - a) Lord: equal with God
 - b) Jesus: human name
 - c) Christ: divinely anointed Messiah
- B. **God himself remains faithful (v. 24)**
 1. Faithful to his call to believers
 2. Faithful to his promises to believers
 3. Faithful to his word
 4. Faithful to his character
 5. Faithful to bring to pass everything he has said
 6. We can trust ourselves to God

II. **The Pleas of an Apostle (vv. 25-28)**

- A. **Pray for us: intercede for ministers (v. 25)**
- B. **Greet Christians with a holy kiss (v. 26)**
 1. Do I have any volunteers?!?
 2. It was a holy kiss, not a romantic kiss!
 3. Common middle eastern mode of salutation
 4. The cultural equivalents of the holy kiss are handshakes or hugs
 5. Warmly welcome and receive
- C. **Read this letter (v. 27)**
 1. Books of the Bible were intended to be read and reread to listeners
 2. Books of the Bible were intended to be read and reread by Christians
 3. This charge was a step in the process that led to this letter being regarded as part of God's inspired word (cf. Tolbert 84)
 4. This solemn admonition suggests the necessity of translating the Scriptures into the many languages of the world so as to be read

5. Books of the Bible were intended to be explained
- D. **The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with all believers (v. 28)**
 1. A closing word of assurance
 2. Grace: undeserved love
 3. Lord Jesus Christ: equal with God, human, divine

Conclusion: God is faithful to carry out all that he has said he would do. How faithful are you to him?