

Ready for Christ's Return | Part 8

Lesson 4

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

October 29, 2023

Tips for Living Like You Want to Live

INTRODUCTION

Paul finishes his first letter to the young church in Thessalonica with direct, positive steps for living. We demonstrate the moving of God in our lives by the actions we take.

Freed by salvation from the basic, natural drive for disruption, greed, and revenge, we can encourage and help others. Our grateful hearts can sing, pray, and rejoice as we listen for direction from the Holy Spirit.

The outworking of this process will take our lifetimes, but there is rich reward for choosing to live as God directs.

Memory verse: "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." —1 Thessalonians: 5:16-18

Pray, and read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

OBSERVATION: What does the passage say?

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15 details ways believers are to treat others. List them.
2. Our attitude toward God is highlighted in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. What does Paul tell believers to do?
3. Paul deals with issues of listening for God's leading. What are the challenges in 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22?
4. What is God's great goal for his people?
(1 Thessalonians 5:23)
5. Who will sanctify us? How do we know it will happen?
(1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)

INTERPRETATION: What do the passages mean?

1. Paul was dealing with some people who were idly waiting for Jesus to return. What are some ways God challenges believers to actively bless others?
(Proverbs 25:21-22; Acts 14:22, 20:34-35; Galatians 6:10; Ephesians 4:28; James 5:7-8)

2. How do we nurture the moving of God's Spirit in our everyday life?

Rejoice: (Psalm 34:1-3; James 5:13)

Pray: (Matthew 7:7-8; Philippians 4:6; James 5:16)

Give thanks: (Psalm 109:30-31; Ephesians 5:18-20; Colossians 3:17)

APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?

1. Write down something that He is working on in your heart.

With others: (e.g., anger, impatience, bias)

With God's Spirit: Are you feeling reluctant to respond to a leading of the Spirit, for example with finances, spending time with Him, or letting go of things that aren't positives for your life?

2. Are there shortcomings in your heart causing you to feel discouraged or unable to live well as a Christian? List them below, and remember that no problem is too hard for the Lord!

3. Say a prayer such as: *Father, I ask you to look at the things I am struggling with and take control of them. Make me able to respond to your Spirit with humbleness and grow more like Jesus in my actions and thoughts. I want to be a living example of You in loving others. In Jesus' name. Amen.*