

LIVING IN LIGHT OF HIS COMING
WEEK 7 NOTES
Live Faithfully/ Part 2
1 Thessalonians 5:19-28

Review

I. In Truth (verses 19-22)

These verses contain direct commands. There are some “do’s” and “don’ts”.

Don’t:

Quench the Spirit. (verse 19) To quench means to extinguish, like throwing a wet blanket over a fire. The Holy Spirit is our helper and teacher (John 14:26) He leads us into Truth (John 16:13). He glorifies Christ (John 16:14). He only speaks what the father/Jesus tells him to speak (John 16:13-15). He empowers us for witnessing (Acts 1:8). We are His temple (1 Corinthians 3:16). We are sealed with the Holy Spirit at the point of salvation (Ephesians 1:13). We can grieve the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30) we can quench the Holy Spirit (1 Thess 5:19).

Because of extremes in teaching about the Holy Spirit, many of us shy away from His working. Yet we cannot live the Christian life apart from His indwelling us and working in us. The Holy Spirit rarely works according to our specifications.

Despise prophetic utterances: In the New testament the church was gifted with prophets, those who speak under direct inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Paul gives very specific instruction in 1 Corinthians 14:29-33 as to how prophets were to speak and conduct themselves in a worship service. The New Testament church did not have the completed, written Word of God, and God used prophetic speaking to deliver truth. They were not to discredit genuine prophetic speaking. (Today, the gift of prophecy is defined as one who speaks Truth. Anyone who claims to have a NEW revelation or New truth that does not agree with Scripture is indeed a false prophet)

Do’s

Examine. In the context of prophetic utterance, the church was to examine (prove, exercise discernment) carefully (totally, completely) everything that was said. The church had enough sound teaching, and they had the indwelling of the Holy Spirit who gives wisdom and discernment, to accurately evaluate and examine prophetic utterances. You are also responsible for carefully examining anything that professes to be truth. Anything we hear taught from the scripture, anything we read about Scripture or spiritual things, anything we see on television that pertains to spiritual things, and even anything we experience MUST be carefully evaluated and examined to see if it lines up the Scripture. It must also glorify Christ and not the individual. Remember, Satan is a liar. He can counterfeit any spiritual experience and make it seem real. He can even get results, but he cannot produce good spiritual fruit. BE ON THE ALERT! Sober-minded and spiritually awake.

Hold fast to that which is good. Whatever is spoken as truth, evaluate and examine it, then keep, guard, and retain the good.

Abstain. In our lifestyle, our worship, and our doctrine abstain from the very appearance of evil—that which is opposed to God and does not glorify God.

II. In Holiness (verses 23-24)

Paul uses the word “sanctification 4 times in 1 Thessalonians. In a general sense it means to hallow or to separate from that which is common or defiled. But Paul is speaking in a spiritual sense. For the Christian it means *holy, separated unto God, gaining fellowship with God and withdrawing fellowship with the world.*

Like other aspects of the Christian life, our sanctification is both our position and our practice. We have been declared holy at the point of salvation. This is our position in Christ. (1 Corinthians 1:2, 6:11, Ephesians 1:4) We ARE Holy. God has made it so through our relationship with Jesus Christ.

But we must also LIVE holy lives. This is our practice. It is an ongoing work of the Holy Spirit. We HAVE BEEN sanctified (declared holy) and now we are BEING Sanctified—the daily process of living holy lives that reflect our holy position.

Paul writes in 1Thessalonians 5:23 a prayer or doxology unto God on behalf of the church, acknowledging that God will sanctify them entirely. Since they are already saved and declared holy, he is speaking of holiness in living or lifestyle. He desires for these new believers to let God do a thorough work in them, sanctifying their body, soul, and spirit. There is no compartmentalizing in the Christian life. If any part of us is affected by sin it has bearing on every other part of us. Holiness must be evident in our actions, words, thoughts, attitudes, motives, emotions, and our thinking. God’s reason for sanctifying us completely is so that when Christ returns, there is no shame in the way we have lived. We are presented to Christ as blameless.

God is faithful. Faithful means true, just, steadfast to one’s word and promise. God’s faithfulness is applied to our sanctification. Verse 24 says the faithful God who calls us to salvation is also faithful to accomplish it—to bring it to pass. What is the “it”? The “it” in verse 24 is our sanctification. If He calls us He, He continues the work in us, until we meet Jesus face to face when the sanctifying work is completed.

Jude 1:1, 2 Timothy 1:12, 1 Thessalonians 5:24. We are called to salvation and we are kept in that salvation for Jesus Christ. It is a permanent relationship.

Philippians 1:6. God began the work of salvation in us and HE WILL complete it in us. He continues working in us through the Holy Spirit, using the Word of God. God will finish what he started. There is great comfort in this promise. He will not let you go, even in the rough patches of faith and life. God is always working in us for His glory. He is a faithful God!

John 17:17. He sanctifies us in truth, His Word is truth. Scripture is the greatest tool, used by the Holy Spirit to sanctify us—as we live out this Christian life in holiness and obedience. It is the tool that corrects us, adjusts us, teaches us, guides us. We, however, must cooperate with the

Holy Spirit in obeying what God tells us to do. Romans 6:19 says we are to continue giving ourselves over to righteousness resulting in holiness (sanctification—holy living). Jude 1:24, 1 Thessalonians 5:24. God keeps His word. He walks with us in this life, keeping us from stumbling permanently, presenting us blameless with great joy at the coming of Christ. We are preserved blameless because the Holy Spirit is at work in us enabling us to live holy lives.

Ladies, these final verses of 1 Thessalonians are like a building crescendo. Christ is coming. Live in Light of His Coming. Live holy lives—enabled and empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit. Paul closes with heartfelt words. “Pray for me. greet one another in love, read the letter of encouragement, live in grace.”

We need each other as we seek to live holy, obedient lives, eagerly waiting for Christ to return!