



Radical Word Bible Study Podcast

1 Thessalonians

Live Streamed on August 14, 2025



Pastor Rick Lancaster

Radical Word Bible Study Podcast

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Opening Comments

- **RECORD**
- Welcome to episode 7 of the Radical Word Bible Study Podcast Live Stream.
- I am Rick Lancaster, and we are coming to you live from our podcasting studio in Murrieta, California at Calvary Chapel French Valley.
- We have a service every Sunday @ 9:30 am.
- Come check us out, we think you will like it.
- And to you guys out there, we have our Monthly Men's Breakfast this Saturday.
- It at 8 am at the church.
- We are streaming this Bible Study live on Rumble, Facebook, and YouTube.
- And, if you would like to help us get these teaching out, please like, share, and subscribe.
- We are working on the podcast part of the Bible Study Podcast.
- We are close to publishing the podcast, maybe this week.
- If you are interested in staying up to date with what is happening at The Radical Word, here is a link that you can use to get connected.
- This link will also be in the description for this video.
- Today is Thursday, August 14, 2025.
- Today's Hebrew date is 20th of Av, 5785
- [coffee mug]
- There is only one thing on the food calendar.
- National Creamsicle Day - August 14
- I have been trying to cut back on sugar, and I don't think I want to cheat with a creamsicle.
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- This day in history: Cologne Cathedral completed.

- Originally started in 1248, construction of the cathedral (Kölner Dom) in Cologne, Germany—the largest Gothic church in northern Europe and the city's major landmark—was finally completed on this day in 1880.
- I have actually visited it – breathtaking.
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- On August 14, 1935 U.S. Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act, establishing a permanent national old-age pension system through employer and employee contributions.
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- As a reminder, I will be responding to the chat live.
- If you have questions or comments, put them in the chat.
- If you do that, keep them brief, please.
- Okay, let's get into our study tonight.
- Let's open with a word of prayer.
- **Pray**

Teaching

- Turn to **1 Thessalonians 5**
- Last time, Paul exhorted us to live ready for the coming of the Lord Jesus.
- **ASK FOR QUESTIONS!**
- As Paul prepares to close this letter to the Thessalonians, he shifts into a rapid-fire series of exhortations.
- We will look at them one at a time.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:12a**
- 'brethren' – uses this word 27 times in 1 & 2 Thessalonians.
- Its literal meaning is male sibling.
- The church is not an organization, even though it is organized.
- It is not a business, it is not a club, it is not an association.
- The word that best describes what the church is supposed to be is 'family'.
- When we were saved, we were made part of the family of God.

Ephesians 1:3-6

³ **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,** ⁴ **just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,** ⁵ **having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,** ⁶ **to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.**

- That means we are all brothers and sisters in Christ.
- When Paul says ‘brethren’ referring to the whole church.
- Even though brethren is referring to male siblings, it came to apply to everyone in the family of God.
- The church is a family made up of families.
- God created the family and established how it should function.
- Created man to be the leader, woman, as his equal to stand beside him and help him, and children are to obey their father and mother.
- The church also is God’s creation, and He established how it should function.
- The elders are assigned to lead under the direction of the Holy Spirit and in accordance with God’s Word, the deacons and other ministers help them lead, and the people are to obey God, His Word, and the faithful exhortations of the ministers of the church.
- Paul gives us three functions of the servant/leaders and two responses of the people.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:12-13a**
- The assumption here is that Paul is referring to people who are serving in the church or for the Lord in the community.
- They may be in positions of authority and responsibility in the church.
- We only get brief glimpses into church life and church government in the early church.
- It is doubtful that it was anything like what we do today, but just how different it may have been is impossible to know.
- There is evidence that some were employed by the church to minister to the people. **1 Timothy 5:17-18**

¹⁷ **Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.** ¹⁸ **For the Scripture says, “*You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,*” and, “*The laborer is worthy of his wages.*”**

- The word honor in verse 17 is used a number of ways.

- Commonly, it means respect or status.
- It can also mean value or worth or pay or compensation.
- If all we had was verse 17 we might be left wondering which one Paul meant.
- As always, when we are studying, we must look at what comes before the verse we are studying and what comes after.
- They say in Bible study – context is king.
- Verse 18 makes it clear that verse 17 refers to compensation.
- **ASK FOR QUESTIONS!**
- Back in 1 Thessalonians, we might understand these to be the ministers of the church, the pastors, elders, deacons, and other people actively serving the church, not just leaders.
- For the sake of our study, we will refer to them as servant-leaders.
- As a quick aside – not every servant is a leader but every leader must be a servant.
- That is the model Christ left us. **Mark 10:43-45**
⁴³ Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. ⁴⁴ And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.
- Paul identifies those servant-leaders as ‘those who labor among you’.
- ‘labor’ = toil to the point of exhaustion – ministry is hard work.
- Someone called to be a minister to the people of God works hard.
- I was called twenty-five years ago to serve God’s people.
- I have discovered many things about serving God and His people.
- One is that you will never run out of things to do to serve God.
- The needs of the ministry will always exceed the minister’s ability to meet them.
- You learn to do what you can and trust God to deal with the rest.
- Being faithful to God and being like Christ means a minister is going to work hard, even to the point of exhaustion, physical, mental, and emotional exhaustion.
- I have also learned that when I am empty, my God is able to meet my needs as I try to meet the needs of others.
- I may get really tired but never too tired to serve God’s people.

- The second thing these servant-leaders are to do is to guide or lead the body.
- Paul says they are over you in the Lord.
- Literally = ‘to take the lead’ – lead by example of life.
- This does speak of authority, but it is a very special kind.
- The kind that Jesus modeled for us.
- A true Christ-like leader is a servant before he is a leader.
- Paul very succinctly encouraged the Corinthians to follow his example. **1 Corinthians 11:1**

Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

- The fact is that some people may not know how to love, worship, serve, or obey God.
- They need an example they can see and ask questions of and turn to for help.
- Paul had told them how to obey.
- He taught the things of God.
- Then he says, watch me while I do it, and then imitate me.
- Paul was doing his best to live a life of Christlikeness in faith and obedience to God.
- This is the highest calling of a Christ-follower who is a servant-leader.
- Living a life that glorifies God, blesses others, and grows faith in God and His Word.
- Notice the phrase ‘in the Lord’.
- This is the limitation of the servant-leader’s ministry.
- To minister ‘in the Lord’ means you don’t go beyond the bounds of your ministry.
- Let the Lord direct you and keep your eyes on Him.
- The next thing Paul says the servant=leader is to do is ‘admonish you.’
- ‘admonish’ = ‘put in mind’ – warning, rebuking, and instruction.
- Warnings are for people who are in danger.
- Not physically, but maybe,
- Usually, the danger is spiritual. **Galatians 6:1**

¹ Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

- Servant-leaders are likely to be spiritually more mature than those they are ministering to.
- **ASK FOR QUESTIONS!**
- Turn to **Ezekiel 33 (Logos)**
- The servant-leader may be able to see spiritual dangers a less mature believer might miss.
- I can remember raising my children and they wanted to do things I believed were unnecessarily risky.
- I was aware of the danger, they were not.
- It was my responsibility to warn them.
- As a servant-leader we should also be hearing from the Lord and warning people when they need it.
- We have a responsibility to God and to His people to do it.
- The Lord is speaking to Ezekiel about the judgment that is coming to the people of Israel because of their rebellion against God.
- God warns Ezekiel to tell the people what God is saying.
- **Ezekiel 33:1-5**
- God warns people so they can escape the danger that is coming.
- If they don't respond to the warning that is on them.
- **Ezekiel 33:6-9**
- A servant-leader should be in contact with the Lord regarding the people he has been called to serve.
- If the Lord speaks to him about someone, the servant-leader must have the faith to speak to them about what the Lord has said.
- You can turn back to **1 Thessalonians 5**.
- In addition to warning, a servant-leader must be willing to rebuke those who need it.
- Rebuke: denounce, express strong disapproval.
- If someone is doing something that is wrong, someone needs to have the courage to tell them.
- A rebuke doesn't have to be harsh and judgmental.

- If you study the way Jesus rebuked people you will see that He was usually gentle with those who were spiritually weak.
- The woman caught in adultery is a good example of that.
- She was guilty, caught in the very act.
- Jesus' rebuke to her was, 'Go and sin no more.'
- With the self-righteous religious people Jesus used a much stronger rebuke. **Matthew 23:27-28**

²⁷ Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead *men's* bones and all uncleanness. ²⁸ Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

- Most of the time we should be gentle with our rebuke of other people's weaknesses and mistakes.
- After all, we are probably weak in an area or two or fifty.
- Servant-leaders should admonish those they are called to minister to.
- The third way they do that is through instruction.
- This is probably the most common.
- This takes place in normal teaching times like right now or the weekend sermon or other Bible studies.
- It also takes place during discipleship and counseling.
- But it also takes place during casual conversations.
- A servant-leader ought to always be willing to impart spiritual truth to every situation.
- Paul urges the Thessalonians to respond to their servant-leaders in two ways.
- First, Paul urges them to 'recognize' them.
- This means to acknowledge them for the work they are doing.
- If someone is laboring among the body, let them know that you see it.
- A faithful servant-leader is laboring hard, not to be acknowledged by people, but to please God.
- But every servant-leader will appreciate it if someone notices their hard work.
- The second thing the people who are being served should do is esteem those who are laboring.

- To esteem is to hold in high value or respect. – to be considered precious to the church.
- Paul doesn't give any direction about what form recognition and esteeming takes.
- It is left up to every believer to listen to the Holy Spirit.
- And if you don't know what to do, just love them.
- For me, I love black licorice – makes me feel loved.
- **ASK FOR QUESTIONS!**
- The second half of verse 13 has our next exhortation.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:13b**
- The phrase 'be at peace' is a single Greek word.
- It is a verb in the present tense, active voice, imperative mood.
- That means it is something we should actively be doing.
- Peace: behave in a way to promote harmony.
- Peace doesn't happen spontaneously. **Romans 12:18**
- 18 **If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.**
- It is not always possible to be at peace with everyone, because some people will not do what is necessary to live in harmony with others.
- So, what does it take to live in harmony with others?
- It takes the same things we need to live in harmony with God – love, grace, mercy, humility, and forgiveness.
- Paul now turns from the leaders to the whole church.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:14**
- 'brethren' – who is he talking to? The whole church! That means you and me.
- Exhort: ask for earnestly, beg, plead, encourage, urge.
- Verses 12 and 13 told them how to relate to the servant-leaders of the church.
- Now Paul is exhorting the people of the church how to relate to one another.
- A church that is alive with the Holy Spirit should not be filled with people who come to watch a sermon.
- A living church should be filled with people who come to give as much as they get.

- The New Testament has a couple dozen ‘one another’ verses that teaches about our relationship to other believers. **John 13:34-35**
³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.
- A Spirit-filled church has people who come to church prepared to give of themselves what ever God gives them for others.
- Paul gives some ways they can be doing that.
- First, warn those who are unruly.
- These are people who are disorderly, unwilling to submit to discipline or correction.
- They should be warned that their behavior is displeasing to God and may be disrupting the peace and harmony of the church.
- The hope is that a warning will suffice for them to correct their behavior.
- Second, comfort the fainthearted.
- The fainthearted are those who are struggling to hold on to hope.
- Whatever is going on in their life is draining them of hope and they need someone to comfort and encourage them.
- Not everyone is good at that but all of us should try.
- Third, uphold the weak.
- Weakness here can mean the physically weak, or emotionally, or spiritually, or any other way people can be weak.
- They probably need someone to come alongside them and give them a little support.
- This weakness can also apply to moral weakness.
- Many of the sins we commit in our lives as Christ-followers are going to be because of this.
- A temptation comes along, and we are morally too weak to resist it.
- When someone sins, they may need someone to come alongside them to lead them gently to repentance and the cleansing forgiveness Christ won for us on the cross.
- That is not just for the pastors or servant-leaders to do, it is for all the body to do.
- **ASK FOR QUESTIONS!**

- The fourth one, be patient with all.
- Patience is a characteristic of God and one we should be exceedingly thankful for. **2 Peter 3:9**

⁹ **The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.**

- Longsuffering in that verse is the same Greek word translated as patient in verse 14.
- The idea of patience is to endure during difficult circumstances.
- But it is not just about enduring.
- It means to be self-controlled internally as well as externally in those difficulties.
- Paul talks about that patience when he is speaking to the Ephesian elders about what is coming when he arrives in Jerusalem. **Acts 20:22-24**

²² **And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. ²⁴ But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.**

- Paul had a course set by God and nothing that happened along the way or as a result of God's plan was going to change his course.
- Notice who it says we should be patient with – all = all people.
- That's hard, but some people are annoying and test our patience.
- Every time someone starts to get on my nerves I try to remember that Jesus had to spend three years with the disciples.
- Some of the things they did and said were pretty nutty.
- And then there was Judas, the betrayer.
- Yet, at no point do you see Jesus losing His cool with them.
- Patience is a choice as much as it is a spiritual discipline.
- We must choose not to be bothered by people who bother us.
- Paul gives us two more exhortations in the next verse.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:15**
- First - Do not let people retaliate against other believers.
- When someone wrongs us, we want to retaliate, to get even, to get justice, to make things right in our eyes.

- After all, the Bible teaches, ‘An eye for an eye’, right? Yep.
- If punishment is given – should fit the crime – to limit punishment.
- But Jesus taught something radically different. **Matthew 5:38-39**
³⁸ “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’
³⁹ But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.
- Rather than taking vengeance, Jesus would call us to forgive.
- Who should do this, the pastor? You!
- We all need to help others who are struggling in the church to find peace and forgiveness.
- If someone feels they have been wronged, discourage them from taking vengeance, encourage them to forgive the other person, and encourage them to do whatever they can to make peace.
- Second – Always pursue what is good.
- Definition of Agape Love –doing what is in the best interest of others.
- It is interesting to me that Paul uses the word pursue here.
- It gives me the sense that this should be a deliberate act.
- We should do something that will lead to good.
- While it is appropriate to be spontaneous with doing good.
- If something happens and the Spirit encourages you to do something good, do it.
- But it seems to me that Paul is exhorting us to plan on doing good.
- Pray and ask God to tell you if there some good you can pursue and then set about to do it.
- It could be as simple as saying to God before you go to church or a Bible study and ask God to give you eyes to see some good you can do.
- Things don’t have to be big things; they just must be good.
- Paul also tells us that we should be doing that always.
- Paul is speaking to the church about how they should others in the church, but this applies to everywhere we go.
- If we can do good, we should.
- Notice also who the object of that goodness is; you and all others.
- It is okay to do good that benefits you.
- The key to doing that right is the ‘and for all.’

- If the good benefits only you, it might not be that good.
- **ASK FOR QUESTIONS!**
- The next three verses are usually taught from the perspective of an individual believer.
- But in context they are given as part of the life of the church.
- We get three very quick statements, utilizing verbs that are in the present tense, active voice, and imperative = not optional in church life.
- Most of the verbs in this chapter have been in that form.
- Paul is giving them clear instructions on how the life of the church should function.
- Couple that with the things he warned them about regarding false teachers, they should know how to live.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:16**
- When the church gathers, it should be a time of rejoicing.
- We should lift our voices in joyous praise.
- That is why many of our songs are upbeat.
- We have a lot to rejoice in – we are the children of Almighty God.
- He saved us from sin and spiritual death.
- He lives in us, helps us, guides us, protects us, teaches us.
- Whether we come in burdened by life or overjoyed with life, we all can add our voices to the joy of the church.
- It has been said, if you are not willing to join in the praises of the church, you are not ready for heaven, because that is the main occupation of heaven.
- Paul says we are to rejoice always.
- Does he really mean always.
- Paul describes his ministry. **1 Corinthians 6:3-10 (Logos)**
- Paul didn't evaluate his life based on how good or bad it was.
- It was filled with good things and bad, easy things and hard.
- Notice, as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing'.
- Even during the things that produced sorrow in his life, he could think about God and find something to rejoice in.
- That is what faith does for us.

- It helps us see past the hard things in this life and see the good we can rejoice in.
- Listen, our name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life.
- We can rejoice in that, right.
- Jesus is going to come and take us to be with Him.
- All your sins are forgiven.
- If we tried, we would run out of days on this earth before we could list all the things we should rejoice in.
- It doesn't say rejoice in everything always.
- There are things that will come into our lives that we will not be able to rejoice in.
- We may not be able to rejoice in that thing, but we can rejoice in the hope we have of God's deliverance and salvation through that thing.
- I don't know why but the fourth verse of the 23rd Psalm has been on my mind a lot. **Psalm 23:4**

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

- If you are going through something hard, it can feel like walking through the valley of the shadow of death.
- Everywhere you look is darkness and death.
- Not everywhere, because He, Christ Jesus, is with me.
- Even as I walk through that dark, depressing, terrifying valley, I can rejoice, Jesus is with me.
- He died on the cross to save me.
- He will save me through this dark valley too.
- Not only that but the Holy Spirit is living inside me, to give me anything I need to walk through to the other side of the valley.
- I am also one of God's children and I am never out of His sight.
- Listen, it can feel impossible to see beyond the darkness of whatever terrible thing is going on in our life, but it can't be impossible, as long as we are Spirit-filled, Christ-following, children of God.
- Don't rejoice in the darkness, rejoice in the Light, Christ Jesus who will walk with you through it. **Philippians 4:4**

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

- As a quick aside – who knows what the shortest verse of the Bible is?

- **ASK FOR QUESTIONS!**

- Brothers and sisters, this is another reason why we need the company of other believers.
- There will be times when your faith is not strong enough to obey this command.
- Despair and hopelessness have no place in the heart of a believer.
- You need to let the body of Christ comfort and encourage you.
- Join in the rejoicing of others, and you might find yourself better able to rejoice.
- Invite others to pray for you to be able to rejoice.
- You can try to live the Christian life alone, but you won't enjoy it.
- One of the things that makes being a minister harder than other things is the rollercoaster of emotions you encounter in a typical service.
- The shortest verse of the English Bible is? **John 11:35**

Jesus wept.

- In the Greek, it is this verse – 'Rejoice always'.
- The next verse is like this one.

- **Ended here!**

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- On the surface it sounds like an impossible command.

- **1 Thessalonians 5:17**

- When we gather as the church, prayer ought to be peppered throughout it.
- If you attend a service at CCFV that is what you will see.
- Not only do we pray during the service several times.
- Someone once described worship singing as 'prayers set to music'.
- We gather and pray before anyone shows up.
- I try to pray over every seat in the room while I am straightening them for the service.
- Prayer should be as natural to a Christ-follower as breathing.
- Paul is not saying that the whole service should be non-stop prayer.

- Nor is he saying we ought to lock ourselves away on a high mountain and devote ourselves to praying without ceasing.
- What he is saying is that we ought to be aware of God's presence at church throughout the whole service.
- That applies to every moment of every day.
- There is never a moment when you are not in the presence of God.
- Many people think that the way we pray at church is how we are supposed to pray all the time.
- A better understanding of prayer is when we are praying, we are speaking to God.
- As Christ-followers we are in a living relationship with Almighty God.
- As such, our prayers ought to be reverential and spoken from a place of humility.
- But God is also our Heavenly Father, and we have been invited through faith in Christ Jesus to come to Him any time we need to.

Hebrews 4:16

¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- One of my favorite images of God in the Bible is of Him walking in the Garden of Eden looking to be with Adam and Eve.
- Prayer is about communing with God as you walk with Him through this life.
- Don't make it religious, just talk to God.
- If you are one of His kids, He is listening.
- Everything you do can be part of a lifelong conversation with God.
- Pray without ceasing.
- As much as you are able, lift your mind up to God.
- Whatever is going in your life, include God in the conversation.
- When you are thinking about something, talk to Him about it.
- It doesn't have to be some enormous thing.
- Remember, God is so big, that the biggest thing in your whole life, is very small compared to God.
- And that is one of the things that makes God so amazing to me.
- God is so big, and I am so small.

- I don't understand why God wants to talk to me, but He does.
- King David wondered about that too. **Psalm 8:4-5**
- ⁴ **What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?**
- ⁵ **For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor.**
- Talk with God. He loves hearing from His kids.
- And try to take some time to listen, because He wants to talk to you.
- **ASK FOR QUESTIONS!**
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- **ASK FOR QUESTIONS!**
- Questions are an important part
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- Next Paul says our gatherings should reflect an attitude of gratitude
- 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- There are things that come into our lives that it is exceedingly difficult to be thankful for
- And in many cases we shouldn't be – like wickedness in the world
- But when we gather together, we have much to be thankful for
- We have a church family that loves us
- We have Christ who saves us – Spirit who comforts us – God who loves and adopted us
- These are commands, 'this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.'
- If you are going to go to a church, you should want it to be a good church – but is good, good enough?
- I don't want this to be a good church, I want it to be a great church
- Unfortunately, there is nothing I can do to make this a great church
- For a church to be truly great, not about the preacher, not about the building, not about how many people are coming, not about the events, ministries, or programs
- It is about the people – all of the people – it's about you

- Jesus died to create this church
- He sent the Holy Spirit to give it the power it needs to be great
- He gave it leaders to work hard, lead it, and teach in it
- But the only way any church can be truly great is when the ‘brethren’ respond
- This little church can be a great church
- What’s in it for you – great churches help people to be great people enjoying great lives, to have great marriages and families
- We serve a great God, we are His sons and daughters and our destiny is greatness
- All you need to do to help this church become a great church is find out what the church is doing and start showing up
- And if we all do that, great things will happen – wouldn’t that be great?
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- Paul has been telling this young church things they should keep in mind as they relate to God and to each other
- Just told them three things they ought to do
- **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**
- Now focuses on two they shouldn’t do – first one
- **1 Thessalonians 5:19**
- The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- God the Father is seated on His throne in heaven
- Jesus is seated next to Him and intercedes for us before the throne of God night and day
- The Holy Spirit is in the world - Jesus told us about Him **John 16:7-8**
It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.
- In Acts 2 the Holy Spirit came just as Jesus promised
- Came upon the disciples – tongues of fire

- All of Jerusalem came to see what was going on – guys were on fire for Jesus
- When we receive Christ as our Savior, Spirit comes into our lives, lights a fire in our heart
- Supernatural things start happening
- But it often doesn't last. Why?
- Paul says here, 'Do not quench the Spirit'
- 'quench' = to put out a fire
- Paul doesn't say what they were doing that might be quenching the Spirit, but the next verse, might be a clue

- **1 Thessalonians 5:20**

- One of the ways you 'quench the Spirit' is to 'despise prophesy'
- A 'prophesy' is an inspired utterance
- When God wanted to speak to humans, He usually did it through another human
- God would inspire them, put His words into their minds
- The Old Testament prophet Jeremiah was a young man when God called him to be a prophet
- He was a little concerned about how he was going to do it **Jeremiah 1:9**

Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth."

- It shouldn't surprise us that God still wants to talk to humans
- God talks to humans in several ways
- The main way is through His Word **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- 'given by inspiration of God' = compound Greek word – God+breathed
- 'breathed' – same root as 'spirit'
- If you don't esteem, value, take seriously, read, and obey Bible = despising prophecy = quenching the Spirit
- Another way God speaks is through people – especially preachers and teachers

- A preacher/teacher can despise prophecy by teaching man's opinion, rather than God's truths
- A person can despise prophecy by wanting to hear man's opinions
- It is one of the signs that we are to be watching for of the end-times 2

Timothy 4:3-4

The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because they have itching ears*, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn *their ears* away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

- The truth is sometimes hard to hear, but when presented by a Spirit-filled teacher, it brings life
- You should pray that the person that stands up here is speaking through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit
- But they are not the only ones that God speaks through
- God can and does speak through anyone who has the Holy Spirit
- We despise prophecy when we refuse to listen to what God is saying through our brothers and sisters
- We can also despise prophecy when we refuse to share the things God inspires us to tell others
- There is rarely a day that goes by that I don't hear something from God through one of the people He has placed in my life
- I don't hear those things because I am super-spiritual
- I hear them because I believe God wants to speak to me, and I am listening
- We despise prophecy and quench the Spirit when we are not listening
- But we can't accept everything we hear
- **1 Thessalonians 5:21-22**
- Not everything that Christians say is inspired by the Spirit of God
- not even the most faithful Christian preacher/teachers should be trusted absolutely
- When someone speaks, as I do every Sunday as a representative of God
- I pray for God's inspiration, I try allow the Spirit to put these messages together

- I have people pray for me that the Holy Spirit does the speaking through me
- That doesn't mean that it always happens
- Paul says, 'Test all things' = 'inspired utterances'
- Judge what is being said as either good or evil, based on what?
- Not on your opinions or how it makes you feel – but with God's Word
- For my words to be considered inspired utterances – must line up with what God has already said in His Word
- If it is good – cling to it, hold fast, grab it and don't let it go
- If it is not good, it is evil - stay away from it, reject it
- Paul closes his letter with a blessing
- **1 Thessalonians 5:23-28**
- God's goal for your life is to make you whole
- For you to be totally whole, all parts of your life need to be aligned with God
- It is the Holy Spirit that does the work to accomplish this wholeness

Philippians 1:6

He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ.

- You can't do it yourself, the Holy Spirit must do it
- But you must let Him – and you can't quench Him
- You can't do the work of becoming whole, but you can block the work
- Jesus told the disciples that they were the light of the world
- All those that follow in their footsteps are also the light of the world
- We are light because the Spirit of God is burning within us
- It is up to us to keep that fire burning hot
- We do that by getting to know the Holy Spirit
- The Bible has a lot to say about Him and the things He does in the world and in the lives of God's people – read it
- Listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit – teachers, preachers, other Christians
- And then respond – this is where discipleship and small groups come in – can help us learn how to 'test all things'

- This world is cold and dark – and if you don't do something to keep the fire burning, you will end up at the same spiritual temperature as this world
- We have an enemy that wants us to be room-temperature **John 10:10a**
The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.
- If your life is just like the world, empty, pointless
- If we quench the Spirit – open the door for the thief
- He will take all he can, and kill or destroy everything else
- But that is not the kind of life that Jesus came to give you **John 10:10b**
I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.
- The abundant life is lived in Christ and through the Spirit
- Impossible without the Holy Spirit
- Which life would you rather live?
- Ask your spouse which life they want to live? Ask your kids?
- And the cool thing is that we can all live that abundant life
- The same Holy Spirit that is in me is in you
- He can take the weakest ember in the heart of a willing person, and fan to flames to life that brings light and heat to everyone around you
- It all begins when we choose to say yes to the Spirit
- Let's pray and do that right now
- **Pray**