

1 Thessalonians - Chapter Four

Neely McQueen - Teaching Pastor

Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you in the name of the Lord Jesus to live in a way that pleases God, as we have taught you. You live this way already, and we encourage you to do so even more. For you remember what we taught you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 4: 1-2 NLT

Encouragement: You are _____ pleasing God (do so even _____)

Challenge: Faith continues to inform the way we _____ and _____

God's will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin. Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor— not in lustful passion like the pagans who do not know God and his ways. Never harm or cheat a fellow believer in this matter by violating his wife, for the Lord avenges all such sins, as we have solemnly warned you before. God has called us to live holy lives, not impure lives. Therefore, anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human teaching but is rejecting God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

1 Thessalonians 4: 3-8 NLT

**Faith means _____ our _____ to the _____
 _____ shapes our _____
 and the way we _____**

But we don't need to write to you about the importance of loving each other,[d] for God himself has taught you to love one another. Indeed, you already show your love for all the believers throughout Macedonia. Even so, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you to love them even more. 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10 NLT

You don't need us to write about loving your brothers and sisters because God has already taught you to love each other. In fact, you are doing loving deeds for all the brothers and sisters throughout Macedonia. Now we encourage you, brothers and sisters, to do so even more. 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10 CEB

Make it your goal to live a quiet life, minding your own business and working with your hands, just as we instructed you before. Then people who are not believers will respect the way you live, and you will not need to depend on others. 1 Thessalonians 4: 11-12 NLT

_____ gives us _____ even
in the midst of _____

And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died. We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So encourage each other with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 NLT

Every time we think of you, we thank God for you. Day and night you're in our prayers as we call to mind your work of faith, your labor of love, and your patience of hope in following our Master, Jesus Christ, before God our Father. It is clear to us, friends, that God not only loves you very much but also has put his hand on you for something special. When the Message we preached came to you, it wasn't just words. Something happened in you. The Holy Spirit put steel in your convictions.

1 Thessalonians 1:2-5 (The Message)

RECOMMENDED READING

- *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church*
N.T. Wright
- *Paul for Everyone: Galatians and Thessalonians*
Tom Wright
- *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*
Gordon D. Fee & Douglas Stuart

GROUP QUESTIONS

GATHER

- *What is something you're thankful for this week?*
- *Do you have any needs? Can anyone help?*
- *Pray: Thanks & needs*

GROW

- *Read: 1 Thess. 4:1-12. What stands out to you?*
- *Re-read the same passage. What stood out to you this time? Why?*
- *What's the application to your life?*

GO

- *Who outside this group can you encourage this week?*
- *Pray: Blessing over the week ahead*

WEEKLY TIP

- *Include the kids. Bonus: Let them read the passage each week!*