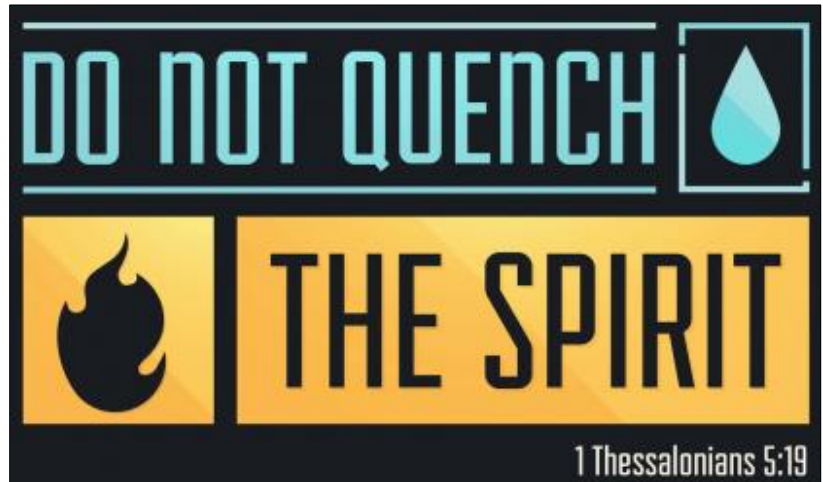
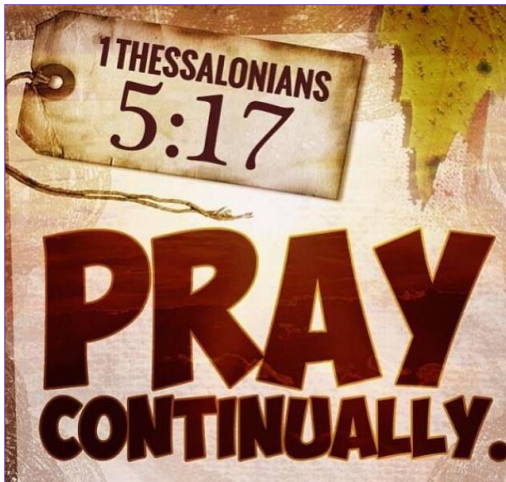




Paul teaches the need to have a proper attitude toward church leaders and other believers. Struggling believers are to be the recipient of special care from the church members. Believers are to rejoice, give thanks, follow the Holy Spirit, and abstain from evil activities. Paul concludes with a prayer that the God of peace will allow them to stand before Him one day fully set apart to Him. This hope can be guaranteed because of the faithful character of God.

Outline

- Preview Introduction
- Exhortations 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15
- Encouragements 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22
- Blessing and Admonition 1 Thessalonians 5:23-28



Truths & Principles

- ✓ Those who labor among us are to be recognized and esteemed.
- ✓ Continually pursue what is good for all.
- ✓ God's will is for us to rejoice at all times, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in everything.
- ✓ Do not to quench the Spirit or deride prophecies.
- ✓ Test all things and keep what is good.
- ✓ Cease and desist from every type of evil.

Applications

- ✓ Note those who are laboring for the Lord and recognize and appreciate them.
- ✓ Allow the Holy Spirit to direct your life, including your relationships with all people – believers and unbelievers.
- ✓ Make it a point to build up and not tear down fellow believers.
- ✓ Do not allow evil to gain a foothold in your life and ensure you put on the whole armor of God each and every day.



Test all things; hold fast what is good. 1 Thessalonians 5:21

1. Paul instructs the Thessalonian believers to recognize who (5:12)? _____
2. Paul instructs the Thessalonian believers to esteem who (5:13)? _____
3. Paul exhorts the Thessalonian brethren to do what to their fellow believers (5:14-15)? _____
4. What is the will of God in Christ Jesus (5:16-18)? _____
5. What are the Thessalonian believers not to quench (5:19)? _____
6. What are the Thessalonian believers not to despise (5:20)? _____
7. Paul instructs the Thessalonians to do what after testing all things 5:21)? _____
8. Paul commands the Thessalonian believers to abstain from what (5:22)? _____
9. What is to be preserved blameless at the coming of Christ (5:23)? _____
10. Who is responsible for completely sanctifying us (5:23-24)? _____

Study Questions

1. Consider Paul's admonition to recognize and esteem the Lord's laborers – VERSES 12-13.
 - ❖ What does the qualifying phrase "*among you*" mean?
 - ❖ How does this relate to Jesus' command to be servant leaders in JOHN 13:1-17?
 - ❖ What does the phrase "*over you in the Lord*" mean?
 - ❖ How does this relate to Jesus' command to "lord over others" in MATTHEW 20:24-28?
2. Reflect on Paul's machine gun commands in VERSES 16-22.
 - ❖ What does "*rejoice always*" mean? Does this mean we are to be happy all the time?
 - ❖ What does "*pray without ceasing*" mean? How does this relate to PSALM 1?
Focus on what PRAYER is and what it means to pray (*meditate*) NON-STOP.
 - ❖ What does "*in everything give thanks*" mean in VERSE 18?
 - ❖ What does "*do not quench the Spirit*" in VERSES 19 and "*do not despise prophecies*" mean in VERSE 20? Are they related? Hint: Read 1 CORINTHIANS 14, focus on 14:39.
 - ❖ What are the "*all things*" we are to test in VERSE 21?
We are to hold on to what is "*good*", how do we know what is "*good*"?
 - ❖ What are the forms of evil alluded to in VERSE 22?
3. Ponder Paul's closing of the letter in VERSES 23-28.
 - ❖ What does "*sanctify you completely*" mean in VERSE 23?
 - ❖ What does "*preserve blameless*" mean in VERSE 23?
 - ❖ God is the "*faithful*" one who will accomplish this. (PHILIPPIANS 1:6; 2:13)
Aren't you glad it does not depend on you? Ponder this great truth!