

Letter to the Thessalonians:

To the church of the Thessalonians:

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your entire spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.

-Paul-

1 Thessalonians 5

1 Thessalonians 5 Instructions for Church Life

12 But we ask you, brothers, to acknowledge those who diligently labor among you, who are over you in the Lord and give you instruction,

13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.

14 And we urge you, brothers, to admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, and be patient with everyone.

1 Thessalonians 5 Instructions for Church Life

15 See that no one repays evil for evil, but always pursue what is good for one another and for all people.

16 Rejoice always.

17 Pray without ceasing.

18 Give thanks in all circumstances,
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

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Romans 12

17 Do not **repay** anyone evil for evil.

Carefully consider what is right in the eyes of everybody.

18 If it is possible on your part, live at peace with everyone.

19 Do not avenge yourselves, beloved, but leave room for God's wrath.

For it is written: "Vengeance is Mine; **I will repay**, says the Lord." [Deuteronomy 32:35]

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2 John

4 I was overjoyed to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the **Father** has commanded us.

5 And now I urge you, dear lady—not as a new commandment to you, but one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another.

6 And this is love, that we walk according to **His** commandments.

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“always persecute with good”

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1 Peter 3

8 Finally, all of you, be like-minded and sympathetic, love as brothers, be tenderhearted and humble.

9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

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1 Peter 3

13 Who can harm you if you are zealous for what is good?

14 But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed.

“Have no fear of them; do not be shaken.” [Isaiah 8:12]

15 But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. [Isaiah 8:12]

Always be prepared to give a defense to everyone who asks you the reason for the hope that is in you.

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1 Peter 3

But respond with gentleness and respect,

16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who slander you may be put to shame by your good behavior in Christ.

17 For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

18 For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

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Holy Spirit-given “faith perspectives”
that are necessary in order to carry out these commands:

1. A belief that God will someday bring perfect justice to all evil.

(Ecc. 12:14, Deut. 32:43, Matt. 12:36, Matt. 16:27, 2 Thess. 1:6)

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2. A view that God is working in every situation – even our suffering.
(Phil. 1:12-14, 2 Cor. 12:7, Acts 4:27-28, Rom. 11:11, Acts 8:1-4)

2 Samuel 16

9 Then Abishai son of Zeruah said to the king,
“Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king?
Let me go over and cut off his head!”

10 But the king replied, “What have I to do with you, O sons
of Zeruah?

If he curses me because the LORD told him, ‘Curse David,’
who can ask, ‘Why did you do this?’ ”

11 Then David said to Abishai and to all his servants,
“Behold, my own son, my own flesh and blood, seeks my life.
How much more, then, this Benjamite! Leave him alone and
let him curse me, for the LORD has told him so.

12 Perhaps the LORD will see my affliction and repay me
with good for the cursing I receive today.”

2 Samuel 16

13 So David and his men proceeded along the road as Shimei went along the ridge of the hill opposite him.

As Shimei went, he yelled curses, threw stones, and flung dust at David.

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Always rejoice.

Unceasingly pray.

In all things give thanks.

for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

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1 Timothy 1

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Ephesians 5

19 Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord,

20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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2. A belief in an absolute sovereign God. (Rom. 8:28, Eph. 1:11)

3. A hatred of sin, and desire to be like Christ. (Rom. 5:3-4, James 1:2-3)

Romans 5

3 Not only that, but we also rejoice in our sufferings,
because we know that suffering produces perseverance;
4 perseverance, character; and character, hope.

James 1

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, when you encounter
trials of many kinds,
3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops
perseverance.
4 Allow perseverance to finish its work, so that you may
be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

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4. A trust that suffering for Christ has eternal reward. (2 Cor. 4:17, Luke 6:23)

Luke 6

22 Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil because of the Son of Man.

23 Rejoice in that day and leap for joy,

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22 Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil because of the Son of Man.

23 Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven.

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5. A deep love for Christ and the mercy we have been shown. (Acts 5:41)

Acts 5

40 ...They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and released them.

41 So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name.

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5. A deep love for Christ and the mercy we have been shown. (Acts 5:41)
6. A deep love for those for whom Christ died – His Church. (Col. 1:24)

Colossians 1

24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for you,

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24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions for the sake of His body, which is the church.

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7. God's own glory is His highest pursuit.
And our greatest good comes when He is most glorified.

Romans 8

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
Shall trouble or distress or persecution or famine or
nakedness or danger or sword?

36 As it is written:

“For Your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” [Psalm 44:22]

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors
through Him who loved us.

38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither
angels nor principalities, neither the present nor the future,
nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else
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