

# ANTICIPATE!

LOOKING FORWARD TO CHRIST'S RETURN A STUDY THROUGH 1 THESSALONIANS

## #8 BLAMELESS!

### The Call to Cooperate with God's Sanctifying Work in Us

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 (NIV): <sup>12</sup> Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. <sup>13</sup> Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. <sup>14</sup> And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. <sup>15</sup> Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. <sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. <sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not treat prophecies with contempt <sup>21</sup> but test them all; hold on to what is good, <sup>22</sup> reject every kind of evil. <sup>23</sup> May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it. <sup>25</sup> Brothers and sisters, pray for us. <sup>26</sup> Greet all God's people with a holy kiss. <sup>27</sup> I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers and sisters. <sup>28</sup> The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

"Sanctification" = to make holy or set apart

\*Sanctification is a work of God, but we have the privilege of **COOPERATING** with God in our sanctification!

#### FIVE WAYS TO COOPERATE WITH GOD'S SANCTIFYING WORK

##### 1. Honor your **SPIRITUAL OVERSEERS** in the church – 5:12-13

Hebrews 13:17 Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

- A. Honor them because God has placed them as shepherds over His flock

- B. Honoring them will make their work a joy and will benefit the church
- C. Honor them by living in peace with one another

##### 2. Meet the **DIVERSE NEEDS** in the body of Christ – 5:14-15

- A. Different needs require different responses
- B. ALL needs require patience and unconditional love

##### 3. Cultivate an **OPTIMISTIC, FAITH-FILLED** attitude – 5:16-18

- A. A thankful heart starts with a proper understanding of who we are, who God is, what we deserve, and what God has given us
- B. We can thank God in all circumstances because we know that He is working it all for our good.

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose

- C. Are you thanking God only for what you deem to be good, or are you thanking Him even for what doesn't make sense?
- D. A heart of thankfulness will overflow into a life of prayer and joy

##### 4. Be in-tune with the **SPIRIT** – 5:19-22

- A. Relationship sins grieve the Spirit

Ephesians 4:30-32 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

- B. We can fan the flame of the Spirit when we live out the fruit of the Spirit (i.e. love, joy, peace, patience, self-control)
- C. A result of quenching the Spirit can be dismissing the supernatural

##### 5. Trust God to **COMPLETE** His work in you - 5:23-24

- A. God will complete your sanctification but YOU have an important role too!

Philippians 2:12-13 ...continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

- B. Sanctification is the **PROOF** of justification!