

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 **Exhortation to Godly Living**

Walk to Please God

¹ Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; ² for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

The Will of God - Holiness

³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴ that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, ⁵ not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶ that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. ⁷ For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. ⁸ Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

Brotherly Love – Work with your own hands – Walk properly towards unbelievers

⁹ But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; ¹⁰ and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more; ¹¹ that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, ¹² that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing.

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Walk to Please God [1 Thessalonians 4:1-2]

✚ Paul said, "We urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus."

- ✧ To urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus, is to strongly urge by the authority of the Lord and the force of His power as head over all things. This is the strongest sense of exhortation as Paul calls for a holy walk on the part of the believers.
- ✧ Paul reminded them that when he preached to them the message of the Gospel of Christ, he had given them commandments for holy living, as he had received them through the Lord Jesus.
- ✧ Now with the knowledge of what is required in holy living to please God, Paul calls for them to abound more and more, indicating that there is a growth process which the believers must choose to pursue as they seek to increase in righteousness.
- ✧ Christianity is not a stagnate or dormant life style, but a vital growing and active life of obedience and fruitfulness.
- ✧ If your life does not reflect the righteousness of Christ, you might question the reality of your relationship with God through Christ.

The Will of God – Holiness [1 Thessalonians 4:3-8]

✚ The Will of God calls for you to be sanctified (set apart for God in holiness). To be Sanctified, you must:

- ✧ **Abstain from sexual immorality.** [Leviticus 18:1-30, Acts 15:20, 29, Romans 1:18-32, 1 Corinthians 6:13, 18-20, 10:8, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8, Jude 1:7]
- ✧ Each believer must be able to control his body in sanctification and honor.
- ✧ We may no longer yield to passion and lust like the Gentiles who do not know God.
- ✧ No one should take advantage of another or defraud (deceive) another in this matter.
- ✧ Remember that the Lord will judge each of us in this matter, and there is certain punishment for such sexually immoral behavior. [Matthew 15:19, Hebrews 13:4]

- ✧ These are the things that bring the Wrath of God upon the disobedient. [Leviticus 18:1-30, Mark 7:20-23, Romans 1:18-32, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Ephesians 5:3-5, James 4:1-4, 1 John 2:15-17, Revelation 21:8, 22:15]
- ✧ Paul reminds them that he had forewarned them and testified to this truth.
- ✧ God did not call us to uncleanness, but to Holiness.
- ✧ Whoever rejects this teaching, rejects God Who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

Brotherly Love – Work with your own hands – Walk properly towards unbelievers [1 Thessalonians 4:9-12]

- ✧ Paul does not feel it necessary to dwell on brotherly love, because the report Timothy brought back to him indicates that they excel in that respect as taught by God to love one another.
 - ✧ In fact, their reputation of brotherly love has spread all over Macedonia.
 - ✧ Paul encourages them to increase more and more in that respect.
- ✧ Additional instructions:
 - ✧ Aspire to live a quiet life.
 - ✧ Do not be busybodies but mind your own business.
 - ✧ Work with your hands as we commanded you.
 - ✧ The goal is to walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing.
 - ✧ To accomplish this purpose effectively requires a walk on the part of the Saints that is exemplary as a witness to the unsaved whom we desire to win for the Lord.