

July 28, 2024

1 Thessalonians 5:16-28

Guidelines for Godly Living

Elizabeth grew up in a Christian home and attended church pretty regularly. Her parents gave her a lot of guidance in her young years, so she came to depend on their warnings and advice. Elizabeth graduated from high school and she went off to the state university, several hours away from home. She was excited about college and eager to study toward her chosen major.

Soon Elizabeth became confused. She found the professors and other students promoting a code of behavior that was selfish, ungodly, and licentious. She found life more complicated than she thought, and struggled with making her own decisions. She called her parents and told them of her dilemma. She asked, "How are Christians supposed to live in this lost world?"

What advice would you give Elizabeth? In this week's lesson from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-28 you will find several guidelines for godly living in the midst of a lost and corrupt world.

1 Thess. 5:16 When should we rejoice?

Joy (rejoicing) comes from a realization of what God has done for those of us who are saved. "Happiness" is tied to what "happens," but Christians can have joy regardless of what happens to them. Joy abides and transcends current circumstances

1 Thess. 5:17 When should we pray?

Do you think that means you must stay on your knees with your head bowed 24 hours a day?

What do you think it means?

1 Thess. 5:18 "In _____ thing give _____."

This is God's will for us (see also 1 Thess. 4:3). We are not required to be thankful **for** everything, but we are commanded to be thankful **in** every circumstance. Thank God right now, regardless of your situation.

1 Thess. 5:19 "_____ not the _____." The word **quench** means to put out a fire. You can put out a fire by depriving it of fuel or by smothering it with water or dirt. What are some ways you might quench the Spirit?

1 Thess. 5:20 **Despise** means to take lightly or ignore, and **prophesyings** refers to the preaching of God's Word. How should we react to Bible preaching?

If you neglect church attendance (Heb. 10:25) or ignore the preacher's teaching and warnings, you are violating this instruction and you will quench the Spirit.

1 Thess. 5:21 **Prove** means to examine and discern. The world pushes a lot of things at us. What should we hold fast?

What do you think we should do with the rest?

- 1 Thess. 5:22** What should we abstain from?
- Is it all right for a Christian to go with his friends to a bar, if he drinks only a Coke while he's there?
- What does this instruction tell you about going to wicked movies, going to nightclubs, and dressing like the world?
- 1 Thess. 5:23** If you do the things listed in verses 16-22, God will “_____ you wholly.” Paul prayed that their _____, _____, and _____ would be preserved **blameless** until Jesus comes back.
- 1 Thess. 5:24** **God is faithful.** He called us to salvation; and if we are submitted and obedient to Him, He will **sanctify** and **preserve** us.
- 1 Thess. 5:25** We should _____ for others.
- 1 Thess. 5:26** In Middle Eastern culture it was and still is common for men to greet each another with an embrace and kiss on the cheek. We should love our fellow Christians.
- 1 Thess. 5:27** Paul told the Thessalonians to read his letter to all the brethren. We should faithfully read the Bible.
- 1 Thess. 5:28** This is Paul's closing prayer: “The _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.”

Concluding Thoughts: This scripture passage contains many guidelines for godly living: How do you measure up?

1. Rejoice – 5:16
2. Pray – 5:17
3. Be thankful – 5:18
4. Don't quench the Spirit – 5:19
5. Don't reject preaching – 5:20
6. Be discerning – 5:21
7. Don't even **look** like you're doing evil – 5:22
8. Trust God to sanctify and preserve you – 5:23-24
9. Pray for others – 5:25
10. Love others – 5:26
11. Read the Bible – 5:27

Is there something you're neglecting? Do you need to repent or recommit to living by God's guidelines? If so, tell God right now.

Project: Memorize **1 Thessalonians 5:18** and **22**.