1 Thessalonians

LESSON # 14

5:16-22

This week’s lesson is a bit shorter so before beginning this lesson review the past memory verses. This week commit to memory 5:16-18. If you have that section memorized already memorize 5:21-22.

1. **According to vss. 16-18, what three things are God’s will for you?**
2. **We tend to think of rejoicing as something we naturally do when good things happen. But here (vs. 16) we are *commanded* to rejoice—*always!* What does this tell us about the nature of a Christian’s joy?**
3. **What spiritual truths (promises) can you as a believer ALWAYS rejoice in, regardless of your circumstances?**
4. **What does it look like to pray without ceasing (a phrase used to describe a persistent hacking cough) in the midst of a busy, demanding schedule? What can you do to make your prayer life more like what Paul had in mind? *Let me suggest that you try to take a day to concentrate on continual prayer. Perhaps just calling to mind grateful thoughts of God throughout the day.***
5. **Thankfulness (vs. 18) is a key characteristic of a true believer. In what circumstances do you struggle to give thanks? How can you cultivate a heart of gratitude to the Lord in these times?**
6. A thankful spirit is one of the hallmarks of a believer. Take the time to write down 20 things for which you can give thanks.
7. **Verse 19, do not quench the Spirit is literally translated, “stop putting out the Spirit’s fire.” What would put out the Spirit’s fire? Describe the meaning of this command and how you can strive to put it into practice. You may want to look up Eph. 5:18-20; Gal. 5:17-21.**
8. **In the NT prophetic utterances can refer to either spoken words or written words. What does the command “do not despise prophetic utterances” (v. 20) mean? Use scriptures to answer.**
9. How would you describe your attitude towards God’s Word?
10. **The believers are not only to have a high regard for God’s Word, but they were to be discerning (vs. 21-22). What three ways are stated here and give a brief definition of what they mean?**
11. How could they discern the difference between “good” and “evil” prophecies? See

1 Corinthians 12:3 and 1 John 4:1-6 for general guidelines the early church was to follow.

1. Though we no longer receive direct, authoritative prophetic revelation from God (see Revelation 22:18-19), what do we have? See 2 Peter 1:19-21.
2. **Verse 21 tells us to *hold fast* or *cling* to that which is good. Is this the way you handle the word of God? Do you treasure it, guard it, and hold on to it for dear life? How can you excel still more in your handling of God’s precious Word?**
3. **Read again vv. 19-22. How discerning are you? What things could you do to help you grow to be more discerning when it comes to truth and error? When was the last time your lack of discernment was revealed?**
4. How can you increase your love for that which is good and increase your abhorrence of things that are evil?
5. **In this section of the letter there were several practical exhortations for how to rejoice, pray, give thanks, and respond worshipfully to God and His Word. Pick one that you think you need to practice more faithfully and make a plan of action for how you can intentionally and purposefully pursue and practice that aspect of worshipful living.**

**YOUR PLAN FOR GROWTH AND CHANGE:**