## Lesson 16

### Practical Responsibilities

### 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22

### Day 1: Be Joyful (v. 16)

“Rejoice always”

1. Define the word *rejoice*.
2. What do these passages teach us about joy in the Christians life?
   1. Romans 15:13
   2. Romans 12:12
   3. James 1:2
   4. Galatians 5:22
   5. Psalm 16:11
   6. Psalm 30:4-5
   7. Psalm 63:6-7
3. What is the difference between joy and happiness?   
     
     
     
     
     
     
   1. Why is that difference so significant in the life of a believer?
   2. How can believers rejoice in hard times?
4. What is the source of a Christians joy?
5. Find at least two passages that tell us what we should rejoice in.

**Day 2: Be Prayerful (v. 17)**

“pray without ceasing”

1. What is the purpose of prayer in the life of a believer?
2. List some of the different types of prayers. Do you pray all of those types or do you find that you predominately pray only one or two kinds?
3. What does it mean to pray without ceasing?
4. Find at least two other passages that speak of the importance of prayer.
5. What does the frequency (or lack thereof) of our prayer life tell us about the condition of our spiritual walk?
6. What do these verses teach us about prayer?
   1. Philippians 4:6
   2. Ephesians 6:18
   3. Matthew 6:6
   4. Romans 8:26
   5. 1 John 5:14
   6. Hebrews 4:16
   7. Psalm 66:18
   8. Luke 6:27-28

**Day 3: Be Thankful (v. 18)**

“give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

1. What does Romans 1:21 tell us about thankfulness?
2. According to these verses, what are some of the things that we are to be thankful for?
   1. Psalm 9:1
   2. Psalm 100:4-5
   3. Colossians 2:6-7
   4. Hebrews 12:28
   5. 1 Thessalonians 1:2
3. Why do we find it so difficult to be thankful and so easy to complain?
4. Find at least two other passages that tell us what the will of God is in our lives.
5. Write a prayer rejoicing in God and giving thanks to Him for all that He is and for all that He has done for you.

**Day 4: Do Not Quench or Despise (vs. 19-20)**

“Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies,”

1. What does Paul mean by saying “Do not quench the Spirit?” In what way can we quench the Spirit?
2. From the following verses what is the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer?
   1. Romans 15:13
   2. John 14:26
   3. Romans 5:5
   4. Ephesians 4:30
   5. Acts 5:32
   6. Acts 9:31
   7. Romans 8:26
3. From Ephesians 5:18 and Galatians 5:16 & 25, what does it look like when a person is Spirit controlled?
4. Define the word *despise*.
5. Is the gift of prophecy still given today? Why or why not?
6. What are prophetic utterances? What does it mean to despise them?
7. What are the benefits of Scripture in the life of a believer? In reading it? In hearing it taught? In meditating on it? In memorizing it?

**Day 5: Be Discerning (vs. 21-22)**

“but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.”

“Discernment is not knowing the difference between right and wrong. It is knowing the difference between right and almost right.” — Charles Spurgeon

1. Define Spiritual discernment.
2. Is there anything that is excluded from the word *everything*? Is there any area of your life that you are not testing to see what is true and good? What will you do to change that?
3. What does it mean to hold fast?
4. How do we know what good is? Cite verses to support your answer.
5. What does it mean to abstain? Is there anything in your life that you should be abstaining from, but have allowed into your life?
6. Does evil always appear to be evil?
7. Why is it so important to not only put off wrong thoughts, actions, and behaviours, but to also put on right thoughts, actions, and behaviours? What is the danger of only putting off?
8. In summary: in this passage what is Paul commanding us to put off, what is he commanding to put on?

**Dig Deeper**

1. Read this article on rejoice always: https://www.ligonier.org/blog/rejoice-always/
2. Listen to Pastor James sermon “The Gift of Prophecy” https://gracelife.ca/sermons/the-gift-of-prophecy/