

While We Wait

VARIOUS EXHORTATIONS FOR THOSE
LOOKING FOR JESUS' RETURN

First Thessalonians 5:12-22



First Thessalonians 5:12-22

CONTEXT



- Commended for their “*work of faith,*” “*labor of love*” & “*patience of hope*” — (1 Thes 1:3)
- Chosen by God, in that they heard, believed and obeyed the gospel - Received the word of God as God’s word — (1 Thes 1:4,6; 2:13; 2 Thes 2:13-15).

First Thessalonians 5:12-22

CONTEXT



- The “**Word of God**” effectively worked in them — (2:13)
- They truly repented — (1:9)
- They were great examples / Evangelistic — (1:7-10)
- Imitated Judean churches / Suffered for Christ — (2:14-16)

First Thessalonians 5:12-22

CONTEXT



- Paul expresses concern for them — (2:17-3:10)
 - Hindered by Satan — (2:17-20).
 - Timothy sent from Athens — (3:1-5).
 - Timothy's good news — (3:1-10).
- Paul's Prayer For The Thessalonians (3:11-13)

First Thessalonians 5:12-22

CONTEXT



- Walk In Holiness — (4:1-8)
- Walk In Love — (4:9-10)
- Walk In Diligence — (4:11-12)
- The Comfort Of Christ's Coming — (4:13-18)
- Prepare For Christ's Coming “*let us watch & be sober ... putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.*”— (5:1-10)

First Thessalonians 5:12-22

CONTEXT



1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ Therefore comfort
each other and edify
one another, just as you
also are doing.

I THESSALONIANS 5:12-24 NKJV

¹² And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³ and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves. ¹⁴ Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.

I THESSALONIANS 5:12-24 NKJV

¹⁵ See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all. ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies. ²¹ Test all things; hold fast what is good. ²² Abstain from every form of evil.

I THESSALONIANS 5:12-24 NKJV

²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you *is* faithful, who also will do *it*.

PROPER RESPONSE TO THOSE OVER US IN THE LORD — 5:12-13

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13
(NKJV)

¹² And we urge you, brethren,
to recognize those who labor
among you, and are over you
in the Lord and admonish
you, ¹³ and to esteem them
very highly in love for their
work's sake. Be at peace
among yourselves.

- **Recognize them** — a reference to elders — [*acknowledge those over you & admonish you*] — (12; Ac 14:23; 20:17,28; 1 Pe 5:1-2; 1 Ti 3:1-7; Ti 1:5-9)
- **Esteem them very highly in love for their works sake** — *respect and appreciate their work* — (13; Heb 13:17; Phil 2:29; 1 Tim 5:17; 1 Pet 5:5)
- **Be at peace among yourselves** — humility & love promotes peace — (14; Heb 13:17; Ja 3:17-18; Ro 14:17-19)

PROPER RESPONSE TO SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF THE BODY — 5:14,15

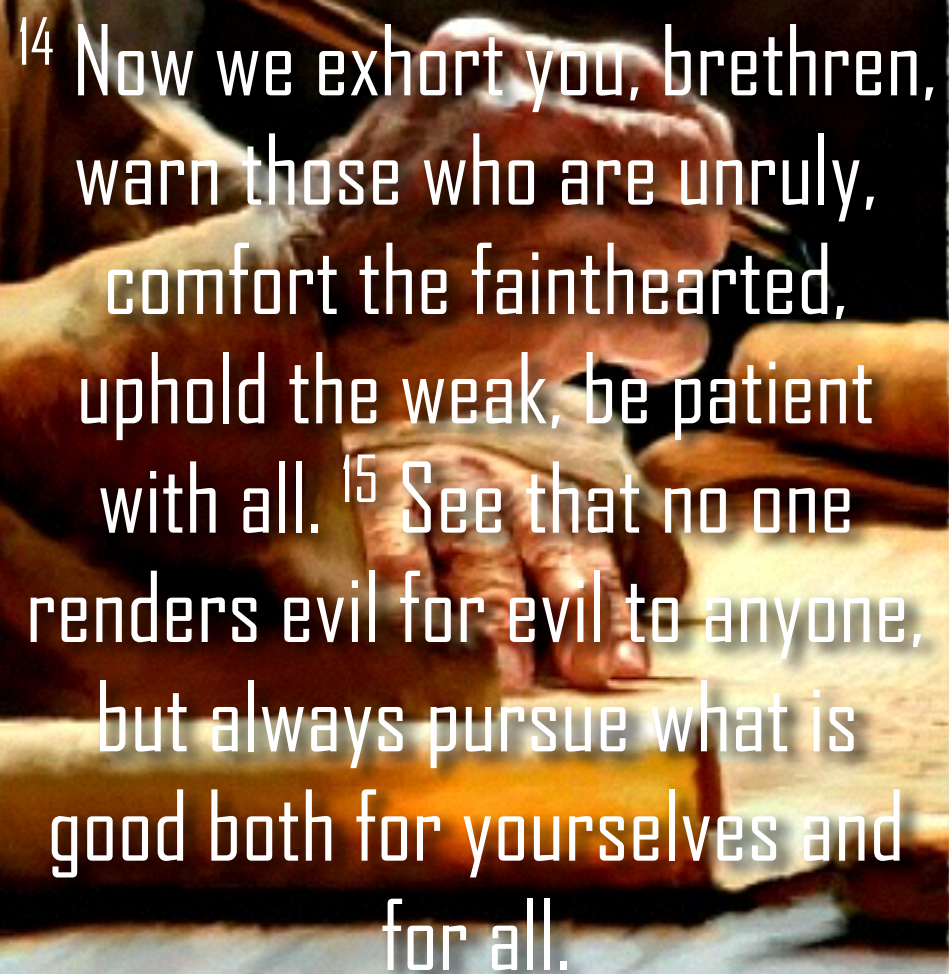
1 Thessalonians 5:14-15
(NKJV)

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renders evil for evil to anyone,
but always pursue what is
good both for yourselves and
for all.

- **Warn those who are unruly** — *warn those out of rank* — (14; Ac 20:31; 2 Tim 4:1,2; 1 Cor 5:1-13; 2 Thes 3:6-15)
- **Comfort the fainthearted** — *Various conditions might lead some to lose heart* — (14; 4:18; 5:11; Eph 3:13; Gal 6:9)
- **Uphold the weak** — *those spiritually weak due to insufficient knowledge / faith* — (14; Ro 14:1-3; 15:1,2; Jam 5:13-16; etc.)
- **Be patient with all** — *All need it* — (14; 1 Cor 13:4,5; Eph 4:3; Col 3:12,13)

PROPER RESPONSE TO SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF THE BODY — 5:14,15

1 Thessalonians 5:14-15
(NKJV)



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- See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone — *two wrongs NEVER make a right* — (15; cf. Pro 20:22; Matt. 5:38-48; Rom. 12:17-21; 1 Peter 3:9)
- Always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all — note - NOT merely restraining from evil - but an active pursuit of kindness in here enjoined — *Kindness is ALWAYS the proper response to injustice* — (15; Rom 12:17; 14:19; Mat 5:44; 1 Pet 3:11-13; 3 Jn 11)

PROPER RESPONSE TO GOD IN ALL THINGS — 5:16-18

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
(NKJV)

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷
pray without ceasing, ¹⁸
in everything give
thanks; for this is the
will of God in Christ
Jesus for you.

- **Rejoice always** — *product of strong faith & hope — trust in God's power, providence, & forgiveness — (16; Mt 5:12; Phil 3:1; 4:4; Ro 12:12; Jm 1:2).*
- **Pray without ceasing** — a lifestyle, habit — *dependency on God - constant pursuit of His strength, & fellowship — (17; Lu 18:1; 21:36; Ro 12:12; Ep 6:18; Col 4:2; Ja 5:16; 1 Pe 4:7)*
- **In everything give thanks** — *in every circumstance of life — (18; Ep. 5:20; Phi. 4:6; Col. 3:17; Rom 8:26-30; 31-39)*

PROPER RESPONSE TO GOD IN ALL THINGS — 5:16-18

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
(NKJV)

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pray without ceasing, ¹⁸
in everything give
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Jesus for you.

These three
exhortations in verses
16-18 are not just
good advice; they are
God's will for every
Christian.

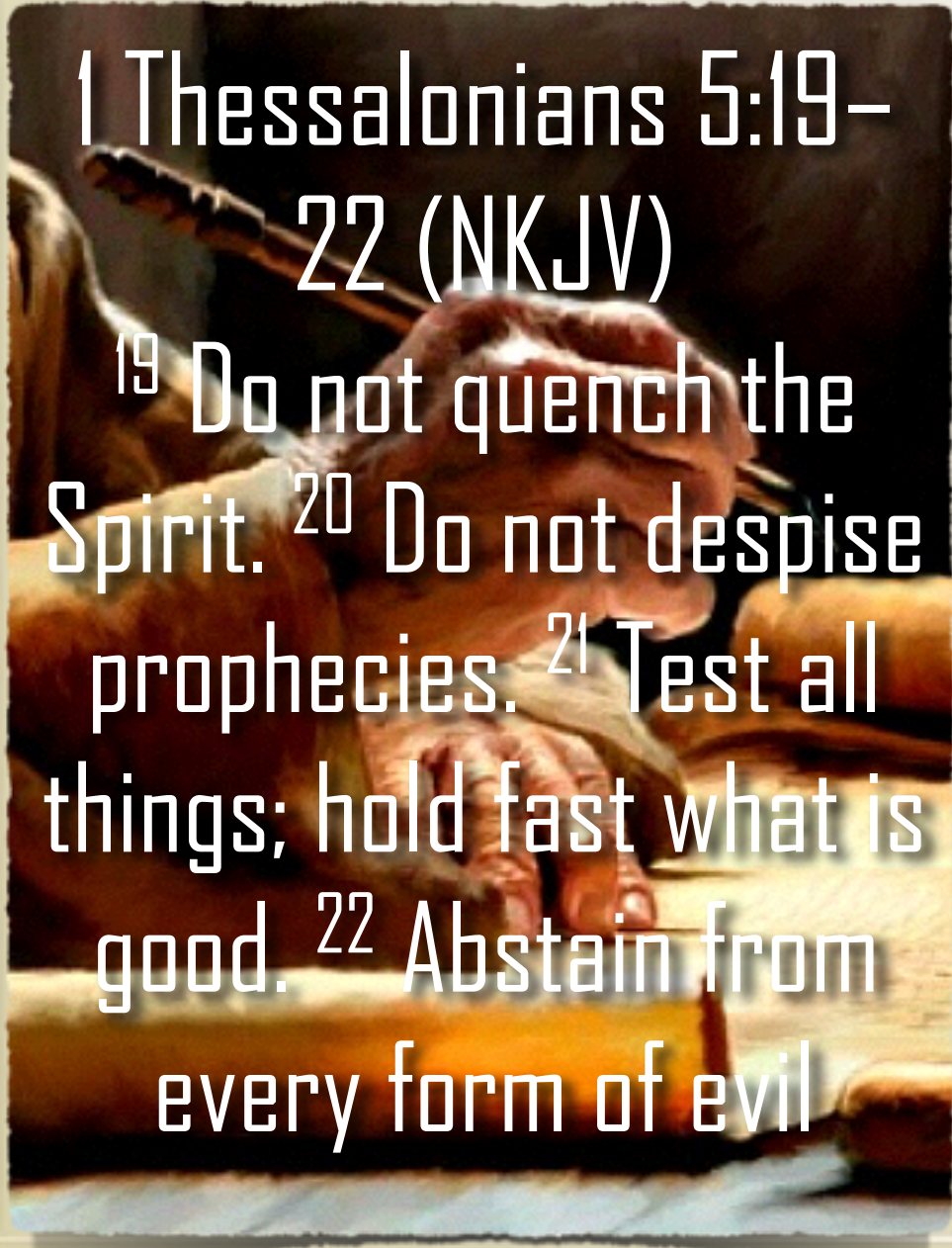
PROPER RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD & HOW TO USE IT— 5:19-22

1 Thessalonians 5:19–
22 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Do not quench the
Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise
prophecies. ²¹ Test all
things; hold fast what is
good. ²² Abstain from
every form of evil

- **Do not quench the Spirit** — *do not suppress the Spirit by suppressing His revelation* — (19; Ac. 7:51; 1 Co. 14:30; Ep. 4:30. 1 Ti. 4:14. 2 Ti. 1:6).
- **Do not despise prophecies.** — *To reject legitimate NT prophecies as authoritative* — anyone who rejects scriptural authority is guilty — (20; Acts 24:25; Rom 1:18,19; 2 Thes 2:10; 2 Tim 4:3,4)
- **Test all things; hold fast what is good.** — *need for discernment* — (21; cf. 1 Co 14:29; Ac 17:11; 1 Jn 4:1; Hb 5:12-14)

PROPER RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD & HOW TO USE IT— 5:19-22



1 Thessalonians 5:19-
22 (NKJV)

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Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise
prophecies. ²¹ Test all
things; hold fast what is
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every form of evil

- **Abstain from every form of evil** — *doctrine, practice or persons* — (22; 1 Cor 6:9-11; Gal 5:19-21;).
- Clearly, anything scripture defines as evil is evil — (1 Cor 6:9-11; Gal 5:19-21).
- Such like things — (Gal 5:21)
- Anything that cannot be shown to be good — (vs 21; Col. 3:17)
- Anything that causes another to stumble — (Rom 14:21; 1 Cor 8:13)

ARE WE READY FOR THE LORD'S RETURN?



- Proper Response To Those Over Us In The Lord — 5:12-13
- Proper Response To Spiritual Needs of The Body — 5:14,15
- Proper Response To God In All Things — 5:16-18
- Proper Response To God's Word & How To Use It— 5:19-22

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1 Thessalonians 5:23–24 (NKJV)

²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you *is* faithful, who also will do *it*.

While We Wait

VARIOUS EXHORTATIONS FOR THOSE
LOOKING FOR JESUS' RETURN

First Thessalonians 5:12-22

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I THESSALONIANS 5:1-11 NKJV

¹ But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that

I should write to you. ² For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

³ For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

I THESSALONIANS 5:1-11 NKJV

⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. ⁵ You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. ⁶ Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.

I THESSALONIANS 5:1-11 NKJV

⁸ But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and *as* a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. ¹¹ Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.