

***Paul's Final Instructions for an Unstoppable Church!
Unstoppable, Pt. 11***

1 Thessalonians 5:16-28

March 24, 2024

1 Thessalonians 1:1, Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. **2** We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. **3** We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:12, Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. **13** Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. **14** And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. **15** Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

- The Church Honors Its Leaders
- The Leaders Love and Lead the Congregation
- The Church and Leaders Know How to Get Along
- The Church Deals Properly With Challenging People

Paul's Final Instructions for an Unstoppable Church:

1. Three Unreasonable COMMANDS

1 Thessalonians 5:16, Rejoice always, **17** pray continually, **18** give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Romans 12:15, Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

Psalms 55:17, Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress, and He hears my voice.

Genesis 50:20, You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

2. Honor the Spirit by God's WORD

1 Thessalonians 5:19, Do not quench the Spirit. **20** Do not treat prophecies with contempt **21** but test them all; hold on to what is good, **22** reject every kind of evil.

1 John 4:1, Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Matthew 7:15, "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

3. Don't Doubt God's Ability to CHANGE YOU

1 Thessalonians 5:23, May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the

coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

John 17:17, *Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.*

Philippians 1:6, *being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

4. Pray for Those Who Are Absent and Love Those Who Are PRESENT

1 Thessalonians 5:25, *Brothers and sisters, pray for us. 26 Greet all God's people with a holy kiss. 27 I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers and sisters. 28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*