

# “Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries”

## First Thessalonians Bible Study — I Thessalonians 5:14-28

## Lesson #9

**\*\*INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the entire section of Scripture in First Thessalonians before starting to look up the other Scripture verses and filling in the blanks. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding as you read God's word. Most Scriptures used are from the New King James Version.

14-15 Now we exhort you, brethren, **WARN those who are UNRULY, COMFORT the fainthearted**, uphold the weak, be patient with all. **See that no one RENDERS EVIL for EVIL to anyone**, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

• **I Peter 3:8-9** “Finally, all of you be of one mind, having \_\_\_\_\_ for one another; \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_, be \_\_\_\_\_, be courteous; \_\_\_\_\_ returning \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_, but on the contrary \_\_\_\_\_, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a \_\_\_\_\_.”

• **II Thessalonians 3:6** “But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you \_\_\_\_\_ from every \_\_\_\_\_ who walks \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ according to the \_\_\_\_\_ which \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Definition: “WARN those who are UNRULY, COMFORT the fainthearted” – Unruly means argumentative or causing trouble, and fainthearted means those who are WEAK in FAITH, fearful, ready to give up, or emotionally troubled.** Part of the job of the pastors and elders of the church is to WARN those who are causing trouble, and counsel them to change their ways. For those who are WEAK in faith, or depressed or in mourning, to encourage them and BUILD them UP in the faith.

• **Isaiah 35:4** “Say to \_\_\_\_\_ who are \_\_\_\_\_, ‘Be \_\_\_\_\_, do not \_\_\_\_\_! Behold, your \_\_\_\_\_ will come with vengeance, with the recompense of \_\_\_\_\_; He will \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ you.’”

**Definition: “See that no one RENDERS EVIL for EVIL to anyone” – “NOT returning evil for evil” is fairly obvious, meaning we should NOT try to get REVENGE or PAY-BACK for something someone has done to us. But what is “reviling”? Revile means to be verbally abusive or use abusive language. Jesus did NOT answer back, threaten or CURSE the soldiers who were abusing Him. Jesus knew that everything that was happening to Him was according to God’s plan, and He committed Himself to the Father’s care. God’s word tells us that the way Jesus acted when He was suffering unjustly is to be our EXAMPLE of how we are to react to abuse, persecution and unfair treatment from others.**

• **John 19:8-9** “Therefore, when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid, and went again into the Praetorium, and \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, “Where are You from?” But \_\_\_\_\_ gave him no \_\_\_\_\_.”

• **Luke 23:9** “Then he questioned Him with many words, but He \_\_\_\_\_ him \_\_\_\_\_.”

• **Isaiah 53:7** “He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_; He is brought as a \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_, and as a \_\_\_\_\_ before her shearers is dumb, so He did not \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_.”

• **I Peter 2:21-23** “For to this you were \_\_\_\_\_, because \_\_\_\_\_ also \_\_\_\_\_ for us, leaving us an \_\_\_\_\_, that you should \_\_\_\_\_ in His \_\_\_\_\_: ‘Who committed no \_\_\_\_\_, nor was \_\_\_\_\_ found in His mouth,’ who, when He was \_\_\_\_\_, did not \_\_\_\_\_ in return; when He \_\_\_\_\_, He did not \_\_\_\_\_, but committed Himself to \_\_\_\_\_ who judges righteously.”

• **Matthew 5:38** “You have heard that it was said, ‘An \_\_\_\_\_ for an \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_ for a \_\_\_\_\_,’ but I tell you \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ an \_\_\_\_\_ person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ to him also. If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, \_\_\_\_\_ have your cloak also.”

16-18 **REJOICE always, PRAY without ceasing, IN EVERYTHING give THANKS;** for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

• **Ephesians 6:18** “\_\_\_\_\_ always with all \_\_\_\_\_ and supplication in the \_\_\_\_\_, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_”

**Definition: “REJOICE always, pray without ceasing, IN EVERYTHING give THANKS”** – This is difficult for us to do (because we would rather WORRY or COMPLAIN), but God commands it, so it is a matter of TRUST. **If you do not TRUST God to be WORKING ALL THINGS together for your GOOD** (Romans 8:28), then you WON’T BE ABLE to **give Him thanks for EVERYTHING that is happening or has happened in your life.**

• **Ephesians 5:19-20** “Speaking to one another psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_ thanks \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ the Father in the \_\_\_\_\_ of our Lord \_\_\_\_\_ Christ,”

• **Acts 16:24-25** “Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner \_\_\_\_\_ and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to God, and the [other] prisoners were \_\_\_\_\_ to them.”

• **Psalms 34:1** “I will \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord at \_\_\_\_\_ ; His \_\_\_\_\_ shall \_\_\_\_\_ be in my mouth.”

• **James 5:13** “Is anyone among you suffering? Let him \_\_\_\_\_. Is anyone cheerful? Let him \_\_\_\_\_.”

• **Romans 8:28** “And we know that \_\_\_\_\_ things \_\_\_\_\_ together for \_\_\_\_\_ to those who \_\_\_\_\_, to those who are the \_\_\_\_\_ according to His \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Definition: “ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER for GOOD”** — Because God is all-knowing, all-powerful, all-loving, and all-wise, **we can TRUST HIM to know what He is doing when He ALLOWS certain things to happen in our lives.** But what about when the “bad” things that happen in our lives are the CONSEQUENCES of our own actions — our WRONG CHOICES and sins? The Lord loves us enough to even WORK THESE THINGS for our GOOD, if we will let Him.

19-22 **Do NOT QUENCH the SPIRIT. Do not DESPISE prophecies. TEST all THINGS,** hold fast what is good. **ABSTAIN from EVERY FORM of EVIL.**

• **Ephesians 4:30** “And do not \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

• **II Corinthians 13:14** “The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen”

**Definition: “Do NOT QUENCH the SPIRIT. Do not DESPISE prophecies”** – To “quench” the Spirit is the same as GRIEVING the Holy Spirit, which means **doing anything that goes AGAINST God’s**

**commandments and the working of the Holy Spirit.** To “despise” something means to look down on it or think it is NOT worthwhile. Some people think the gift of prophecy is for giving personal messages, almost like fortune-telling, but that is not correct. **The gift of prophecy is for “edification of the church,”** not for personal messages. **Edification means “building up.”** I Corinthians 14:3 also says it is for “exhortation and consolation,” **which means encouragement, strengthening, and comfort.** The gift of prophecy is “the special ability that God the Holy Spirit gives to certain members of the body of Christ to reveal God’s truth and proclaim it in a timely and relevant manner for understanding, correction, repentance, or edification. It may or may not pertain to future events.” In other words, the gift of prophecy seems to be the same as **INSPIRED PREACHING**, with the congregation **judging and checking it out by the written word of God.** The Holy Spirit is able to apply what is being preached in a sermon to individual lives and hearts, **even though the one speaking does not know in advance what to preach about, or what issues need to be addressed.** There are situations, such as mentioned in I Cor. 14:24-25, where people will think the speaker has been “reading their mail” so to speak, because of the way **they preach the word directly to the issues in their lives.**

• **Ephesians 4:11-12** “And He gave some as apostles, and some as \_\_\_\_\_, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.”

• **I Corinthians 14:3** “But one who \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and consolation.”

• **Acts 15:30-32** “...and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter. And when they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement. And Judas and Silas, also being \_\_\_\_\_ themselves, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ with a \_\_\_\_\_ (sermon).”

• **I Corinthians 14:29-31** “And let two or three \_\_\_\_\_ speak, and let the others pass judgment..... For you can all \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_, so that \_\_\_\_\_ may learn and \_\_\_\_\_ may be \_\_\_\_\_.”

• **I Corinthians 14:24-25** “But if all \_\_\_\_\_ (preach), and an unbeliever or an ungifted man enters, he is \_\_\_\_\_ by all, he is called to account by all; the \_\_\_\_\_ of his \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_; and so he will fall on his face and \_\_\_\_\_ God, declaring that God is certainly among you.”

**Definition: “TEST all THINGS, hold fast what is good. ABSTAIN from EVERY FORM of EVIL” –** How do we TEST things in the spiritual realm? By seeing if they LINE UP with the **written WORD of God.** **To ABSTAIN from evil means to KEEP AWAY from anything that is sinful and against God’s word.**

• **I John 4:1** “Beloved, do \_\_\_\_\_ every spirit, but \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, whether they are of God; because many \_\_\_\_\_ have gone out into the world.”

• **Acts 17:11** “Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ with great eagerness, \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ daily, to \_\_\_\_\_ whether these things were \_\_\_\_\_.”

23-25 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. **He who calls you is FAITHFUL, who also WILL DO it.** Brethren pray for us.

• **II Corinthians 7:1** “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, perfecting \_\_\_\_\_ (sanctification) in the fear of \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Definition: “Your whole SPIRIT, SOUL and BODY” –** The Bible tells us that we are spirit, soul and body (I Thess. 5:23). **The SOUL is made up of MIND, WILL and EMOTIONS.** The “**natural man**” is

**governed ONLY by his soul and bodily appetites**, because he is spiritually dead (I Cor. 2:14; Eph. 2:1-5). We, as born-again Christians, have been made spiritually alive, and we are supposed to be governed and **controlled by the HOLY SPIRIT and our own born-again SPIRIT**, which is created in the image of God (Eph. 4:17-24 calls it the “new man”). We are NOT supposed to be controlled by our SOUL.

Our soul, which includes our EMOTIONS, is **UNRELIABLE, we must not trust it. We MUST renew our minds with the word of God** (Romans 12:1-2; Eph. 4:23) and we are RESPONSIBLE (using our FREE WILL) to be careful of what we put before our eyes and allow to enter our minds, because that will AFFECT our EMOTIONS (see Phil. 4:6-9). If you find that your MIND (thoughts) or EMOTIONS are **out of line with what God says**, you MUST NOT allow your SOUL to be the final authority. **God’s word must be the FINAL AUTHORITY**, and we are told to **“take EVERY THOUGHT captive to the OBEDIENCE of Christ”** (II Cor. 10:3-5). This means we must deal with our thought-life and emotions, rather than ALLOWING them to rule and reign over us.

•**Romans 12:1-2** “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present (offer) your \_\_\_\_\_ a living \_\_\_\_\_, holy, acceptable to \_\_\_\_\_, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_ of your \_\_\_\_\_, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

**Definition: “May the God of peace Himself SANCTIFY you”** – To sanctify or sanctification means HOLINESS, PURITY, being SET APART for God and His use. The word “SAINT” comes from the same word as “sanctified” in the Greek. This is BOTH a PROCESS and a ONE-TIME EXPERIENCE. **We are sanctified, or MADE HOLY in God’s sight when we accept Jesus Christ as Savior**, but our continual SANCTIFICATION is **the PROCESS by which we are becoming MORE LIKE CHRIST** as we YIELD more and more of our SELVES to the control of the Holy Spirit.

•**Acts 20:32** “And now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ you an \_\_\_\_\_ among all those who are \_\_\_\_\_.”

•**I Peter 1:2** “Elect, according to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ the Father, in \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, for \_\_\_\_\_ and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.”

**Definition: “He who calls you is FAITHFUL, who also WILL DO it”** – This is the same as **“HE who has BEGUN a GOOD WORK in you will COMPLETE IT.”** When we first accept Jesus as our Savior, **we are born again into God’s family, and that is the GOOD WORK** Paul is talking about here. We are born as little “baby Christians”, but God does not leave us there. His will is for us to grow up to adulthood.

God gives us EVERY spiritual blessing and the power through the Holy Spirit for us to grow up into Christ here on earth, and our final INHERITANCE is waiting for us in heaven. **God’s desire and plan for us is to bring us to maturity in Christ and to COMPLETE the GOOD WORK that He began when we first came to Christ.**

•**Philippians 1:6** “Being confident of this very thing, that \_\_\_\_\_ who has \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ in you will \_\_\_\_\_ it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

26-28 Great all the holy brethren with a holy kiss. I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

•**Titus 3:15** “\_\_\_\_\_ who are with \_\_\_\_\_ you. Greet those who love us in the faith. \_\_\_\_\_ be with \_\_\_\_\_ all. Amen.”

•**Hebrews 13:25** “\_\_\_\_\_ be with \_\_\_\_\_ all. Amen.”