

# Expectations

Ephesians 3:20-21

## How Will Our Community Thrive?

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

**I Thessalonians 5:11-24**

### A. Six Priorities For All Of Us

**[I Thessalonians 5:11-22]**

Priority #1: Encourage and Support Each Other [11]

Priority #2: Honor and Respect Our Leaders [12-13]

Priority #3: Be Patient With Those Who Struggle [14]

Priority #4: Practice the Principle of Non-Retaliation [15]

Priority #5: Make Three Vital Choices Each Day:

[1] Choose Joy [5:16]

[2] Pray Constantly [5:17]

[3] Choose Gratitude in Every Season [5:18]

Priority #6: Recognize How The Spirit Works in Community [5:19-22]

### B. God's Promises For All Of Us

**[I Thessalonians 5:23]**

[1] Sanctification [John 17:16-18]

[2] Eternal Relationship [John 3:16]

[3] Faithfulness [2 Timothy 2:13]

**I Thessalonians 5:11** Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. [1 Corinthians 16:18, Philippians 2:29]

**I Thessalonians 5:12-13** We ask you, brothers, to respect [appreciate] those who labor [toiling - working hard which results in weariness] among you and are over you [taking the lead] in the Lord and admonish you, [to warn and instruct] <sup>13</sup> and to esteem [consider, regard, and think] them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. [Mark 9:50]

**I Thessalonians 5:14** And we urge you, brothers, [parakleo - emphasis on mutual support and encouragement within the body of Christ]

[1] admonish the idle [the slackers], [2 Thessalonians 3:6-7]

[2] encourage the fainthearted, [discouraged] [Isaiah 35:4]

[3] help the weak, [Acts 20:35, Romans 15:1-2]

[4] be patient [longsuffering] with them all. [I Corinthians 13:4a]

**I Thessalonians 5:15** See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, [Romans 12:17] but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. [Galatians 6:10, Romans 12:9]

**I Thessalonians 5:16-18** Rejoice always, [Philippians 4:4]

<sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, [Luke 18:1]

<sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; [Luke 18:1]

for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for [toward] you.

**I Thessalonians 5:19-22** Do not quench [extinguish] the Spirit. [I Timothy 4:13, 2 Timothy 1:6] <sup>20</sup> Do not despise prophecies, [2 Timothy 3:16 - nature; 1 Peter 1:20-21 - method] <sup>21</sup> but test everything; hold fast what is good. [I John 4:1-3] <sup>22</sup> Abstain from every form of evil.

**I Thessalonians 5:23-24** Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, [John 17:17] and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. [2 Peter 3:14, I Thessalonians 5:24] <sup>24</sup> He who calls [kaelo] you is faithful; he will surely do it. [1 Corinthians 1:9, Philippians 1:6]

## Study Questions/Prayer

[1] Read I Thessalonians 5:11. How can we practically encourage and support each other?

[2] Read I Thessalonians 5:14, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-7, Isaiah 35:4, Acts 20:35, Romans 15:1-2, and I Corinthians 13:4a. Think of a time when you had to be patient with someone who was struggling. How did this experience impact you?

[3] Read I Thessalonians 5:15, Romans 12:17, Galatians 6:10, and Romans 12:9.

How can we practice the principle of non-retaliation with others, and each other?

[4] Discuss the three vital choices mentioned in I Thessalonians 5:16-18 (choosing joy, praying constantly, and choosing gratitude). How can these choices impact our daily lives and spiritual growth?

[5] Read I Thessalonians 5:23-24, John 17:17, I Corinthians 1:9, and Philippians 1:6. What does it mean for God to sanctify us completely, and how does this assurance of His faithfulness influence our faith journey?

[6] Pray for God to give us an awareness of the six priorities we are called to as believers as we do life together.