

Worksheet #7: 1 Thessalonians 5:12–28 (NKJV)

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.

¹⁴Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.¹⁵ See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

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

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

²³Now 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*.

²⁵Brethren, pray for us.

²⁶Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss.

²⁷I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren.

²⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen.

Interpretation: *Read through the passage, and then review and make notes under the questions below.*

1. What roles does Paul attribute to leaders within the church in v. 12? How are individual people within the church to respond to their leaders in vv. 12–13? What does Paul anticipate will occur as a result?

2. How do the exhortations of vv. 14–15 further define the role of church leaders? Of members?

3. What are the functions of joy, prayer, and thanksgiving within a local assembly of believers (v. 16–18)?

4. What kinds of actions could be described as “quench[ing] the Spirit” (v. 19)?

5. What does Paul have in mind when he says, “do not despise prophecies” (v. 20)?

6. What does it mean to “abstain from every form of evil” (v. 22)?

7. What does it mean for “the God of peace Himself” to “sanctify you completely” (v. 23)? Is Paul describing a state of sinless perfection that can be attained in this life? Explain your answer from context.

Application: *Take time to reflect on the implications of this passage for your own life today.*

8. What does this passage mean for your walk with the Lord?

9. How does this passage challenge the way you think about situations in daily life? What should you do about that?

Review: *Take a few moments to look back through your study of 1 Thessalonians.*

10. What are some passages/topics in this book that you found to be particularly challenging or helpful?
