

1 THESSALONIANS

**STANDING FIRM & PRESSING ON,
UNITED TO JESUS.**

Words That Please God

1 Thessalonians 5:14-22

Doug Sachtleben, Lead Pastor

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First Thessalonians 5:14-22 teaches believers to grow in pleasing God by the words we speak to each other, the words we speak to God, and by the way in which we listen and respond to God's Word to us.

1. The words we speak to each other (5:14-15)

The goal of Christian speech should be to benefit the hearer.

God has shown great patience to us. We are called to reflect that patience to others.

- Admonish the unruly.
- Encourage the fainthearted.
- Help the weak.

2. The words we speak to God (5:16-18)

- Always rejoice
- Unceasingly pray
- In all, give thanks

3. How we listen and respond as God speaks to us (5:19-22)

Those who were routinely identified in Scripture as prophets spoke as messengers of God. They delivered God's truth.

"Further revelation, whether through prophecy, tongues, or interpretation, is unnecessary in the church today, and such claims to revelation tend not only to undermine the doctrine of the sufficiency of Scripture, but lead many into instability, heresy, and division, often elevating experience over the Word of God. Jeremiah 23:16-32; 2 Timothy 3:5-17; Matthew 5:18." Grace Bible Church Confession of Faith

Early believers in the time before the New Testament was complete were called to examine the genuineness of anything that claimed to be the word of the Lord.

God's Word – the Bible – teaches us how God identifies good and evil. We are called to meditate on God's truth so that we learn to embrace what God calls good and abstain from what He calls evil.

Questions to Consider

1. In the past week, how have you used words to do good for someone and how have you used them to do harm? Can you identify an experience in which a brother or sister in Christ spoke words to you that provided significant healing and strength?
2. What are some passages in Scripture that teach us about the patience of God?
3. Who is responsible to admonish a professing believer who is living in rebellion to God?
4. Is there a brother or sister in Christ that you know who seems discouraged or weak that you could minister to this week?
5. How are we, as believers, to live out the biblical commands to ALWAYS rejoice, UNCEASINGLY pray, and IN ALL THINGS give thanks?
6. What can we say with certainty about what is meant by "prophecies" in verse 20? As a believer in Jesus Christ, how do you identify what God defines as good and evil, and how should you respond when such things are clear?