

Direction - Part 5
Guides
02/10/2019

- Guides

1 Thess. 3:11-13 (ESV) Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 (ESV) 4 Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. 2 For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. 3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, 5 not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; 6 that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. 7 For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. 8 Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

How God Guides:

1st) He reminds us who we are.

1 Thess. 3:13 (ESV) so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

1 Thess. 3:11-12 (ESV) Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you,

- *may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all*
- *so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness*
- God is working in you.

Phil. 1:6 (ESV) And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Phil. 2:12-13 (ESV) Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

- How does that work?
- I'm not sure but we have responsibility
- Trust in Jesus and focus on your relationship with him
- *saints*
- Live on the outside what has already happened on the inside

2 Cor. 5:21 (ESV) For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- If your faith is in Jesus you are righteous before God
- Righteousness Is Not Right Doing But Right Being

Galatians 2:16 (ESV) yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

- We frustrate the grace of God in our lives when we look to ourselves and try by our own efforts to make ourselves righteous before God.
- Keep your focus on the finished work of Christ

2nd) He helps us live what we ***know***.

1 Thess. 4:2 (ESV) For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

- I know more than I do
- For most of us the problem is not that we don't know we should be different
- Our Problem is that we can't make ourselves be different
- If you don't love something you can't be commanded to love it
- The flip side is if you do love it then you don't need to be commanded to love it
- If you remove the threat of punishment people will lose the will to obey
- Being afraid of judgment will produce a surface level to the law but beneath that shallow obedience will rush a river of fear, pride and self-interest.
- Only in the security of God's love for us will love for God grow in us.

3rd) He gives us a Biblical ***standard*** for our benefit.

1 Thess. 4:3 (ESV) For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality;

- *Sanctification - the process of acquiring sanctity or holiness as a result of association with deity*
- *The most basic meaning of "sanctification" is separation.*
- Anything outside the confines of marriage between a man and a woman
- The law is perfect and we need to teach that it is and without compromise.

- It is God's standard for holy living and, I might add, for being able to sleep better at night.
- We dare not compromise the truth about God's standard.
- The fact that none of us can keep the law is one of the reasons for the law.
- The law drives us to Jesus and the throne of grace
- New Year's "relinquishments."
- That's where he relinquishes what he can't fix to Jesus.
- It's amazing what Jesus does when he gives whatever it is to him.
- Grace inspires what the law demands

4th) He gives us His Holy *Spirit*.

1 Thess. 4:8 (ESV) Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

- Spirit led living

Gal. 5:16 (ESV) But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Walking by the Spirit:

A) Helps me to *know* what I need to know.

- If you learn to let the Holy Spirit lead your life, he not only helps you know what you need to know, he helps you know what you need to know in that moment.

B) Helps me to know where I need to *go*.

C) Points me back to *Jesus*.

John 15:26 (ESV) But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.