

New Testament Letters Biblical Commands

Commands from 1 Thessalonians

1. 1 Thess 4:18 - Comfort one another with the knowledge of the coming of the Lord: the "catching away" or Rapture.

1Thes 4:18 Therefore comfort one another with these words. (NKJ)

The dead in Christ will rise first and we who are alive will be transformed and caught away to be with the Lord.

2. 1 Thes 5:11 - Comfort and edify one another with the promises of prophecy.

1Thes 5:11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing. (NKJ)

In a context of prophesy concerning future events, the fact that we have not been appointed to wrath (5:9), and that we are to be awake and producing on behalf of the Lord, we are commanded both to comfort and edify one another.

3. 1 Thes 5:13 - Live in peace with one another

1Thes 5:13 and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves. (NKJ)

Believers are called to both unity and peace. The unity is obtained by the common foundation of the Word of God. Peace is maintained by treating each other in love, obeying the commands of the Lord, and making decisions to put the Lord and others first.

4. 1 Thes 5:14 - Four practical commands to be at peace

1Thes 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. (NKJ)

Following in the context of 1 Thessalonians 5:13, four practical areas are laid out as the ongoing basis of attaining the "peace" with each other commanded in 1 Thessalonians 5:13.

5. 1 Thes 5:15 - Police the evil and Pursue the good

1Thes 5:15 See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all. (NKJ)

Part of living at peace with one another not only involves warning the unruly, but taking action against them when they do evil. Living in peace does not rule out warnings nor the policing of church leadership. The emphasis is the good.

6. 1 Thes 5:16 - Rejoice

1Thes 5:16 Rejoice always, (NKJ)

The third aspect of producing the "Fruit of the Spirit" is joy. The command is for us to be joyful and rejoicing as Christians. The ability to rejoice is dependent on the control (filling) of God's Holy Spirit.

7. 1 Thes 5:17 - Pray unceasingly

1Thes 5:17 pray without ceasing, (NKJ)

The desire of the Lord is that we be in constant communication with him from our side and constantly aware of His presence, leading, and guidance on His side.

8. 1 Thes 5:18 - Give thanks in everything

1Thes 5:18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (NKJ)

The attitude of realizing that the Plan of God is being fulfilled in our lives in all "things working together for good" (Rom 8:28) gives us the motivation to fulfill this command to give thanks in all things.

9. 1 Thess 5:19 - Allow the positive leading of the Holy Spirit

1Thes 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit. (NKJ)

The Christian life after salvation involves a ongoing relationship with the Lord through the Holy Spirit. The Spirit leads, guides, teaches us truth, and points out ways to escape temptations. This is not to be hindered.

10. 1 Thess 5:20 - Uphold the preaching of the Word including prophecy

1Thes 5:20 Do not despise prophecies. (NKJ)

The word translated "prophecies" carries a dual meaning. The primary meaning is "to forth-tell" or proclaim the message of the Lord in its principles, examples and commands. The secondary meaning is "to foretell" which involves the future or prophetic aspects of Scripture.

11. 1 Thes 5:21 - Test all things retaining what is good

1Thes 5:21 Test all things; hold fast what is good. (NKJ)

In the context of concern about prophecy, their loved ones who had died, and the relationship to the prophecies formerly taught, they had also heard a number of conflicting things. The conflicting doctrines were causing great concern. In view of the fact that we are told Satan and his demons are constantly promulgating "doctrines of demons" (1 Tim 4:1), we are to be testing doctrinally all views against clear Scripture and secondly, holding on to the good.

12. 1 Thess 5:22 - Refrain from all evil

1Thes 5:22 Abstain from every form of evil. (NKJ)

This command is clear and forthright. We are commanded to refrain from evil in the form of outright sin as well as failure to obey positive commands and the temptation to go in non-Biblical directions.

13. 1 Thess 5:25 - Pray for those in ministry

1Thes 5:25 Brethren, pray for us. (NKJ)

The Apostle Paul was deeply involved in missionary service and commanded the prayers of the believers in the local church. Part of our prayer concerns should be for those in ministry

14. 1 Thess 5:26 - Be cordial to one another

1Thes 5:26 Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss. (NKJ)

The church as an assembly of believers is a local "chapter" of the family of God. As such, each is commanded to be friendly and cordial to one another as loving brothers and sisters in Christ

Commands in 1 Thessalonians - Summary

1. Use Biblical Prophecy to comfort and edify. #1,2
2. Live in peace with one another always being cordial. #3,14
3. Peace is attained by warning warning troublemakers, comforting the worriers, upholding the weak, being patient with all, and policing those doing evil. #4,5
4. Always pursue the good and hold fast to it. #5,11
5. Rejoice always. #6
6. Keep in constant prayer communication. #7
7. Give thanks for all things. #8
8. Allow for the positive leading of the Holy Spirit. #9
9. Uphold all preaching of the Word including Biblical prophesy. #10
10. Test all things against God's Word. #11
11. Refrain from all evil. #12
12. Pray for those serving in ministry. #13