

“Final Instructions for Spiritual Growth” 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

Take Home Truth: The way believers grow up as Christians is to stay submitted to God’s leaders, influenced by God’s people, and connected to God Himself.

Paul provides three ways to speed up spiritual growth.

- WE VALUE AND RESPOND TO OUR **SPIRITUAL LEADERS**.

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (English Standard Version)

(For pastors, elders and leaders see: Ephesians 4:11; Acts 15:2ff; 20:17;

1 Timothy 5:17, 19; Titus 1:5; James 5:14; Hebrews 13:7, 17, 24)

But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction.

1 Thessalonians 5:12 (New American Standard Bible)

Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, . . . ²shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight . . . ⁴And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 1 Peter 5:1, 2, 4 (NASB)

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Hebrews 13:17 (New International Version)

- WE **MUTUALLY INFLUENCE** EACH OTHER IN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR GOOD.

And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. ¹⁵See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.

1 Thessalonians 5:14-15 (ESV)

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Ephesians 4:2 (NIV)

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ²⁵Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

- WE CHOOSE A **24/7 CONNECTION** TO GOD.

Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22 (ESV)