

GRATITUDE & PRAYER
First Thessalonians
Banska Bystrica, 7th February 2016

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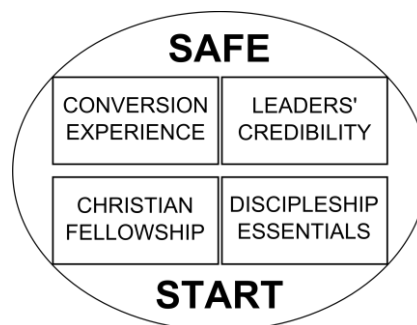
3. TO REMEMBER

0. INTRODUCTION

- reminder: method of exposition: theme “clusters”

0.1. REVIEWING THE PREVIOUS LESSON

- the first three chapters (1Thess 1-3)
- the important things in crisis (new Christians)



- impossible to separate sharply

0.2. PRAYER IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

- prayer ≈ breathing
- prayer (1) & fellowship, (2) & essentials, (3) & leaders, (4) conversion

0.3. PRAYER IN THE 1ST THESSALONIANS

- **1:2-3** We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers,³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.
- **3:9-13** For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you (εὐχαριστίαν δυνάμεθα τῷ θεῷ

ἀνταποδοῦναι), for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, ¹⁰ as we pray most earnestly night and day (νυκτὸς καὶ ἡμέρας ὑπερεκπερισσοῦ δεόμενοι) that (1) we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith? ¹¹ Now (2) may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹² and (3) may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³ so that he (4) may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

- **5:17-19** ...pray without ceasing (ἀδιαλείπτως προσεύχεσθε), ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances (ἐν παντὶ εὐχαριστεῖτε); for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit (τὸ πνεῦμα μὴ σβέννυτε)
- **5:25** Brothers, pray for us

1. LEADERSHIP & PRAYER

- Phil 2:14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing;
- John 6:43 Jesus answered and said to them, "Do not grumble among yourselves.
- 1Pt 4:9 Be hospitable to one another without complaint.
- Num 14:27 "How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who are grumbling against Me? I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel, which they are making against Me.

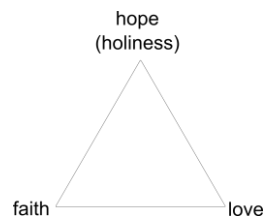
1.1. GIVING THANKS

What to REMEMBER and what to LOOK FOR:

- ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ (μνημονεύοντες ὑμῶν τοῦ ἔργου τῆς πίστεως καὶ τοῦ κόπου τῆς ἀγάπης καὶ τῆς ὑπομονῆς τῆς ἐλπίδος τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἔμπροσθεν τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ πατρὸς ἡμῶν)
 - what do you remember about other Christians? – before God?
 - **James 5:9** Do not grumble (μὴ στενάζετε,) against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.
 - **2Cor 2:10-11** Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. What I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, ¹¹so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

1.2. INTERCEDING

- 3:11 direct our way to you
 - 3:10 supply what is lacking in your faith (τὰ ὑστερήματα τῆς πίστεως ὑμῶν)
 - 3:12 ...may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all (πλεονάζει καὶ περισσεύει τῇ ἀγάπῃ εἰς ἀλλήλους καὶ εἰς πάντας)
 - **3:13** 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 (**hope & holiness: 1John 3:3** And everyone who thus **hopes** in him **purifies** himself as he is pure)



1.3. ALSO ASKING FOR PRAYER

- **5:25** “Brothers, pray for us”

2. PRAYER & DISCIPLESHIP

- **5:17-19** ...pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit

2.1. PRAYER ATTITUDE: THANKFUL

2.1.1. APPROACHING GOD

- **Ps 100:4** Enter his gates with thanksgiving (בְּתוֹרָה), and his courts with praise (בְּתִהְלָה)! Give thanks to him (הודוּלוּ); bless his name (בְּרַכּוּ שְׁמוֹ)!
- **Eph 5:20** ...giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ
- **Phil 4:6** ...do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
- **Col 4:2** Continue steadfastly in prayer, being *watchful* in it with thanksgiving.
- “different eyes”; “different drum”
- seeing the *GOAL* – salvation of your souls...

2.1.2. GRATITUDE & KOINONIA

- **Rom 1:8** First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world (“First of all, Paul must express his thanks to God for his readers. This was customary, and he omitted an expression of thanks only in writing the Galatians. His thanksgiving for the Roman believers is based on their faith (cf. Eph 1:15, 16; Col 1:3, 4; and 1 Thess 1:3)”)
- Appreciation of all human beings: **1Tim 2:1** First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,

2.2. PRAYER TIME: ALWAYS

- Mt 6 (time in secret) ↔ 1Thes (all the time)

2.3. PRAYER POWER: IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

- 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit (τὸ πνεῦμα μὴ σβέννυτε)
- **Eph 6:18** praying at all times in the Spirit, with all **prayer** and supplication
- **Jude 1:20** build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit;
- prayer without the Holy Spirit is impossible – attitude of grumbling is quenching the Spirit...
- **Eph 4:30-32** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

3. TO REMEMBER

- Beware of grumbling.
- Give thanks for all people – especially for fellow Christians (church members, leaders...)
- Always begin your prayers with thanksgiving.