

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

November 16, 2015

The Sin of Thanklessness (Pt. 2 of 2)

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NKJV – (16) Rejoice always, (17) pray without ceasing, (18) in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

As mentioned last week, Paul has four important points in his letter to the Thessalonians regarding how to have a "thankful heart." These points can be found in the next four verses of the scripture reading....

- (1) **1 Thessalonians 5:19 NKJV** – (19) **Do not quench the Spirit.** When the word "quench" is used in Scripture, it is speaking of suppressing fire. When believers put on the shield of faith, as part of their armor of God (**Ephesians 6:16**), they are extinguishing the power of the fiery darts from Satan. Christ described hell as a place where the fire would not be "quenched" (**Mark 9:44, 46, 48**). Likewise, the Holy Spirit is a fire dwelling in each believer. He wants to express Himself in our actions and attitudes. When believers do not allow the Spirit to be seen in our actions - when we do what we know is wrong - we suppress or quench the Spirit (**1 Thessalonians 5:19**).
- (2) **1 Thessalonians 5:20 NKJV** – (20) **Do not despise prophecies.** First, we need to understand "prophetic utterances". A prophetic utterance is simply a communication directly from God to a person or persons through the medium of a prophet. A prophet acts as a mouthpiece for God, receiving a message from Him and proclaiming it in accordance with His commands. I am not guessing about this definition. This is exactly what the Bible itself says. In **Exodus 4:10-16** after Moses declared that his lack of eloquence would make it impossible for him to act as God's representative before Pharaoh we find God appointing Aaron as Moses' mouthpiece. In **Exodus 4:16** we read, "... he shall speak for you to the people; and it shall come about that he shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be as God to him." Aaron served as Moses' prophet/his mouthpiece.
- (3) **1 Thessalonians 5:21 NKJV** – (21) **Test all things; hold fast what is good.** Prove all things. Whatever we hear in prophesying or preaching, examine by the words of Christ, and by the doctrines which, from time to time, we have delivered unto you in our preaching and writings. Try the spirits - the different teachers, by the word of God. Hold fast that which is good - whatever in these prophesying has a tendency to increase your faith, love, holiness, and usefulness - receive and hold fast. There were prophets or teachers even at that time, who professed to be of God, and yet were not.
- (4) **1 Thessalonians 5:22 NKJV** – (22) **Abstain from every form of evil.** Abstain from all appearance of evil - not only from evil itself, but from that which seems to be wrong. There are many things which are known to be wrong. They are positively forbidden by the laws of heaven, and the world concurs in the sentiment that they are wicked. But there are also many things about which there may be some reasonable doubt. It is not quite as easy to determine in these cases what is right or wrong. These subjects have not been fully examined, or the question of morality may be so difficult to settle that the mind may be nearly or quite balanced in regard to it. There are many things which may not appear to us as wrong, but may be considered as such to a large and respectable portion of the community; and for us to do them would be regarded as inconsistent and improper. There are many things, also, where you will find that there is varied sentiment among mankind - where one portion would regard them as proper, and another as improper. There are things also where, whatever may be our motive, we may be certain that our conduct will be regarded as improper. A great variety of subjects, such as those pertaining to dress, amusements, the opera, the ball-room, games of chance and hazard, and various practices in the transaction of business, come under this general class; which, though on the supposition that they cannot be proved to be in themselves positively wrong or forbidden, have much the "appearance" of evil, and will be so interpreted by others. The safe and proper rule is to lean always to the side of virtue.

"Be thankful!! This is a command. We are to give thanks in everything that comes into our lives because it comes by the will of God.

SCRIPTURE READING: PSALM 26:6-7

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "Praise God even when you don't understand what He is doing."