

1 Thessalonians 5:16-22:

I. Verses 16-18. Relating to God

II. Verses 19-22. Discerning a “word from the Lord”

Jesus said:

“Whoever does God's will is my brother
and sister and mother.”

(Mark 3:35)

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

(Romans 12:2)

It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ⁴ that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable,

(1 Thessalonians 4:3-4)

¹⁹ So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

(1 Peter 4:19)

Key take-away

It's not so much discovering God's will . . .

It's whether we're obeying God's will.

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it
again: Rejoice!

(Phil 4:4)

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

(Romans 8:28)

The work of the Spirit of God

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control.

(Galatians 5:22-23a)

“Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.”

(Luke 18:1)

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions
with all kinds of prayers and requests.
With this in mind, be alert and always
keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

(Ephesians 6:18)

Lessons on prayer

1. Much praying is not done because we do not plan to pray.
2. Adopt practical ways to impede mental drift.
3. At various periods in your life, develop, if possible, a prayer-partner relationship.
4. Choose models—but choose them well.
5. Develop a system for your prayer lists.
6. Mingle praise, confession, and intercession; but when you intercede, try to tie as many requests as possible to Scripture.

Thanksgiving for:

1. Salvation (Col 1:12; 2:6-7)
2. Provisions of food, shelter, clothing (Matt 15:36)
3. Answered prayer by God (John 11:41)

Thanksgiving for:

4. The love and support of other people in God's family (Romans 1:8; 1 Cor 1:4)
5. Partners in the gospel (Phil 1:3-5)
6. Every circumstance in life (Col 3:17)

Do not extinguish the Spirit (v. 19), do not despise prophecies (v. 20)

(1 Thess 5:19-20)

But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.

(1 Corinthians 14:3)

1 Corinthians 12:7-10a

“⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, . . .”

Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight,

(1 Timothy 1:18)

Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

(1 Timothy 4:14)

Test:

1. Meshes with Scripture

Test

2. Affirms Jesus is Lord. (cf. 1 John 4:1-3)

Test

3. Upholds the gospel of God's free and saving grace through Christ. (cf. Gal 1:6-9)

Test

4. Comes from a speaker with a known and reputable character.(cf. Matt 7:15-23)

Test

5. Builds up the church. (cf. 1 Cor 14:3)

