

# HOW TO SURVIVE IN **THRIVE** IN CHAOTIC TIMES

How To Please God



**How to Please God:  
A Comprehensive Guide to  
Spiritual Growth**

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**How to Thrive in Chaotic Times**

## **Introduction**

In our journey of faith, the desire to please God often shapes how we live, interact, and make decisions. In the book of 1 Thessalonians, Paul's letter to the church of Thessalonica provides us with a remarkable model of a community striving to live in a way that honors God. Despite facing persecution, this church is praised for their faithfulness and commitment to spiritual growth.

In this eBook, we will explore three key principles that Paul outlines for us to please God, drawing from the example of the Thessalonians. These principles are: seeking sexual purity, pursuing spiritual unity, and embracing the hope of Christ's second coming.

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## **Chapter 1: Seek Sexual Purity**

### **The Call to Sanctification**

Paul begins his message to the Thessalonians by emphasizing sanctification. Sanctification means being set apart for God's special use. As believers, we are called to live differently from the world around us, especially in matters of sexual purity.

In 1 Thessalonians 4:3, Paul writes, "For this is God's will, your sanctification: that you keep away from sexual immorality." Paul was addressing a culture influenced by Roman, Greek, and Egyptian values—many of which normalized immoral behaviors, including temple prostitution and same-sex relationships.

### **Relevance Today**

Much like the culture of Thessalonica, modern society often promotes a sexual ethic contrary to God's design. In America, for instance, statistics show a disconnection between professed Christian faith and lifestyle choices regarding sexual morality.

Paul's message is clear: we are not to conform to the patterns of the world. Instead, we must live as sanctified individuals, understanding that God's plan for sexual purity is to reflect His

nature in our relationships. Sexual relations, according to the Bible, are meant to occur within the bonds of marriage, reflecting unity, love, and God's character.

### **Controlling the Flesh**

Paul also emphasizes the importance of controlling our bodies in holiness and honor. In Romans 8, Paul contrasts living according to the flesh versus living according to the Spirit. As believers, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to control our desires and live in a way that honors God. This requires discipline and the renewing of our minds, aligning our thoughts and actions with God's Word.

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## **Chapter 2: Seek Spiritual Unity**

### **Loving One Another**

In 1 Thessalonians 4:9, Paul transitions from personal purity to the importance of community. He writes, "You yourselves are taught by God to love one another." True spiritual unity is demonstrated in how we love and serve one another within the body of Christ.

Paul commends the Thessalonians for already showing love but encourages them to "do it even more" (verse 10). Love within the Christian community should be ever-increasing, manifesting in tangible ways such as helping one another, offering support, and living in harmony.

### **The Power of Community**

Spiritual unity is not just an abstract concept; it requires intentional actions. Small groups, for example, provide an opportunity to live out this unity. When a member of the group is in need, the others respond with care and support, showing the world the love of Christ in action.

When Christians serve one another, even in the small things, it can have a profound impact on outsiders. As Paul writes, this kind of love and unity will "behave properly in the presence of outsiders"

(verse 12), allowing the church to be a powerful witness to the world.

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### **Chapter 3: Embrace the Hope of Christ's Return**

#### **The Promise of Christ's Second Coming**

Paul closes this chapter with words of hope, reminding the Thessalonians of the second coming of Christ. In 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, Paul writes, "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout... and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are still alive... will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air."

For a church facing persecution, this reminder of Christ's return was a source of great comfort. It assured them that the struggles they faced were temporary and that a glorious future awaited them.

#### **Encouraging One Another**

The anticipation of Christ's return should encourage us to live with purpose and faith. Paul calls us to "encourage one another with these words" (verse 18). As believers, we must remind ourselves and others that, no matter the trials of this life, better days lie ahead.

This hope fuels our perseverance and helps us remain steadfast in our walk with God. It also motivates us to share the gospel, knowing that the return of Christ could happen at any moment.

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## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the church of Thessalonica offers us a beautiful example of how to live in a way that pleases God. By seeking sexual purity, fostering spiritual unity, and embracing the hope of Christ's return, we can walk in the joy and freedom that comes from living according to God's will.

As you reflect on these principles, remember Paul's words of encouragement: "Do this even more." No matter where you are in your spiritual journey, there is always room to grow and please God more fully. Keep pressing forward, trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen you each day.

Let this be our prayer: that we may live lives that honor God, reflecting His love, holiness, and hope to the world around us.

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## **Reflection Questions:**

1. In what areas of your life can you seek greater sanctification and purity?
2. How can you contribute to fostering unity within your Christian community?
3. How does the hope of Christ's return influence the way you live today?

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