

The Book of 1 Thessalonians

“Life in Christ
until HE Returns”

1 Thessalonians 3: 11-13

“Growing into the Holy People of God”



1 Thessalonians 3:11–13 (NKJV)

11 Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you. **12** And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, **13** so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

Outline:

- 1. A Practice that grows Holiness**
- 2. A Characteristic that grows Holiness**
- 3. The Purpose of growing in Holiness**



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“Growing into the Holy People of God”



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1. A Practice that grows Holiness

2. A Characteristic that grows Holiness

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A Practice that grows Holiness:

A. Observations:



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1 John 1:1–4 (NKJV)

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

1 Thessalonians 3:11–13 (NKJV)

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And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, 13 so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

A Practice that grows Holiness:

B. Summary:

- Fellowship is important
- Fellowship is a practice
- Fellowship = Collective participation
- Doctrine is vital to fellowship cf. 1Jn. 1: 1-4





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A Characteristic that grows Holiness:

A. Observations:



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John 15:1–5 (NKJV)

1 “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Galatians 5:22–25 (NKJV)

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.



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A Characteristic that grows Holiness:

B. Summary:

- Those in Christ should abide
- Abiding increases love
- Abiding in Christ is to be Holy



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The Purpose of growing in Holiness:

A. Observations:



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1 Thessalonians 1:10 (NKJV)

10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 5:8–9 (NKJV)

8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Revelation 19:11–16 (NKJV)

11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS**

The Purpose of growing in Holiness:

A. Summary:

- Don't wait to have fellowship with God
- Growing in love is God's desire
- Growing in love leads to a blameless heart



Application:



- Am I positionally “Holy”? (relationship with God)
- Am I in fellowship with God and His people?
- Is love a fruit God has or is producing in me?
- If not... why not?
- Does the return of Christ scare me or encourage me?

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