

1 Thessalonians 4

Chapter 4 of 5 · 18 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Living to Please God

¹ Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.

² For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.

³ For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

⁴ That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;

⁵ Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:

⁶ That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

⁷ For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

⁸ He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

Brotherly Love

⁹ But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.

¹⁰ And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;

11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

12 That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.

The Coming of the Lord

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Believe — πιστεύω (Pisteuo)

To believe, trust, have faith

The Greek **pisteuo** (πιστεύω) means to believe or trust—active reliance upon Christ. 'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish' (John 3:16).

God — Θεός (Theos)

God

The Greek **Theos** (Θεός) refers to deity, used both for the one true God and false gods. Context determines whether it denotes the Father specifically or the Godhead generally.

Hope — ἐλπίς (Elpis)

Hope, expectation

The Greek **elpis** (ἐλπίς) denotes hope—confident expectation of good. This hope is 'an anchor of the soul' (Hebrews 6:19), grounded in Christ's resurrection and the believer's future inheritance (1 Peter 1:3-4).

Lord — Κύριος (Kurios)

Lord, Master

The Greek **Kurios** (Κύριος) means 'lord' or 'master,' used both for human masters and divinely for God the Father and Jesus Christ. Its application to Jesus affirms His deity, as it translates YHWH in the Septuagint.

Love — ἀγάπη (Agape)

Divine love

The Greek **agape** (ἀγάπη) denotes self-sacrificial, unconditional love—the highest form of love, characterizing God's nature (1 John 4:8) and the love Christians are called to demonstrate.

Messiah — Χριστός (Christos)

Christ, Anointed One

The Greek **Christos** (Χριστός) translates 'Messiah'—the Anointed One. Peter confessed 'Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God' (Matthew 16:16), recognizing Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah.

Spirit — πνεῦμα (Pneuma)

Spirit, wind, breath

The Greek **pneuma** (πνεῦμα) means spirit, wind, or breath—the immaterial aspect of persons. The Holy Spirit (Pneuma Hagion) is the third person of the Trinity, dwelling in believers.

Word — λόγος (Logos)

Word, reason, message

The Greek **Logos** (Λόγος) means word, reason, or message—the rational principle underlying reality. John identifies Christ as the eternal Logos: 'In the beginning was the Word' (John 1:1).

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Thessalonians 4:1

References God: 2 Corinthians 13:11; Colossians 1:10; 2 Thessalonians 1:3; Hebrews 13:16.

References Jesus: 2 Peter 3:18. **Parallel theme:** Job 17:9; Philippians 1:9; 1 John 3:22.

References Lord: 1 Thessalonians 3:12; Ephesians 4:1

1 Thessalonians 4:2 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 28:20. **Word:** Ezekiel 3:17

1 Thessalonians 4:3

References God: 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Romans 12:2; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 4:2; 1 John 2:17.

Parallel theme: 1 Thessalonians 4:4; Galatians 5:19; Ephesians 5:17; Colossians 3:5; Revelation 21:8

1 Thessalonians 4:4 **Parallel theme:** Acts 9:15; Romans 1:24; 6:19; 12:1; 1 Corinthians 6:15; 7:2; 7:9; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:7

1 Thessalonians 4:5 **References God:** Romans 1:24; 1:26; 1:28; Galatians 4:8; Ephesians 2:12; 2 Thessalonians 1:8. **Parallel theme:** Colossians 3:5; 1 Peter 4:3

1 Thessalonians 4:6 **Parallel theme:** Exodus 20:15; 20:17; Proverbs 28:24; Ezekiel 22:13; Luke 12:5; Romans 13:4; Hebrews 13:4; James 2:6. **References Lord:** Romans 12:19; James 5:4

1 Thessalonians 4:7 **Holy:** Leviticus 11:44; 19:2; Ephesians 1:4; 2 Timothy 1:9; Hebrews 12:14. **Parallel theme:** 1 Thessalonians 2:3; Galatians 5:19; Ephesians 4:1; 4:19; 2 Peter 2:10

1 Thessalonians 4:8

Spirit: 1 John 3:24. **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 8:7; Proverbs 1:7; 23:9; Luke 10:16; John 12:48. **Holy:** 2 Peter 1:21

1 Thessalonians 4:9 **Love:** Romans 12:10; Hebrews 13:1; 1 John 2:10; 3:11; 3:23. **Parallel theme:** 1 Thessalonians 5:1; Psalms 133:1; John 14:26; Acts 4:32; Hebrews 10:16

1 Thessalonians 4:10 **Parallel theme:** 1 Thessalonians 1:7; 3:12; Philippians 1:9; 2 Thessalonians 1:3

1 Thessalonians 4:11

Parallel theme: Proverbs 17:1; Ecclesiastes 4:6; Lamentations 3:26; 1 Corinthians 4:12; 2 Corinthians 5:9; Ephesians 4:28; 1 Timothy 2:2; 5:13; Titus 3:14; 1 Peter 3:4

1 Thessalonians 4:12 **Parallel theme:** 1 Thessalonians 5:22; Mark 4:11; Romans 12:17; 13:13; Colossians 4:5; 1 Timothy 3:7; 1 Peter 2:12; 3:1

1 Thessalonians 4:13 **Parallel theme:** 1 Thessalonians 4:15; 5:10; Daniel 12:2; Acts 7:60; 13:36; Romans 1:13; 1 Corinthians 15:6; 2 Peter 3:4. **Hope:** Ezekiel 37:11; Ephesians 2:12

1 Thessalonians 4:14 **References Jesus:** 1 Thessalonians 3:13; Romans 8:11; 2 Thessalonians 2:1. **Parallel theme:** 1 Thessalonians 4:13; 4:17; Isaiah 26:19; Matthew 24:31; Revelation 1:18; 14:13

1 Thessalonians 4:15 **References Lord:** 2 Corinthians 4:14

1 Thessalonians 4:16 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 16:27; 25:31; Acts 1:11; Revelation 1:7. **References Christ:** 1 Corinthians 15:23; 2 Thessalonians 2:1. **References Lord:** Isaiah 27:13; 2 Thessalonians 1:7. **References God:** Psalms 47:5; Zechariah 9:14

1 Thessalonians 4:17 **Parallel theme:** Daniel 7:13; John 12:26; 14:3; 17:24; Acts 1:9; 1 Corinthians 15:52; Revelation 1:7; 11:12. **References Lord:** 1 Thessalonians 4:15; Acts 8:39

1 Thessalonians 4:18 **Parallel theme:** 1 Thessalonians 5:11; 5:14; Luke 21:28

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