

# 1 Timothy 4:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

## Analysis

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**For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer** (ἀγιάζεται γὰρ διὰ λόγου θεοῦ καὶ ἐντεύξεως, *hagiazetai gar dia logou theou kai enteuxeōs*)—creation is 'made holy through God's word and prayer.' *Hagiazō* means to set apart, consecrate, sanctify. *Enteuxis* is intercession, petition—prayer that asks.

**The word of God** refers either to Scripture's teaching on creation's goodness (Genesis 1:31) or to God's creative word that brought all things into being. **Prayer** expresses dependence on and gratitude to the Creator. Together they transform common meals into holy acts—we eat not as animals gratifying appetite, but as image-bearers receiving gifts from a loving Father.

This principle sanctifies all legitimate pleasures: marriage, food, work, rest. When received with biblical understanding and prayerful thanksgiving, they become means of grace, not stumbling blocks. The false teachers' asceticism denied both creation's goodness and God's gracious provision.

## Historical Context

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Early Christians practiced table blessings (Acts 27:35, 1 Corinthians 10:30), thanking God before meals—a counter-cultural practice in the pagan world where food was offered to idols. Paul insists all food is clean when received with thanksgiving (Romans 14:6). This liberates believers from both Jewish dietary laws and pagan superstitions, while maintaining reverence for God's provision.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does praying over meals sanctify them as acts of worship rather than mere consumption?
2. In what areas of life do you need to recover thanksgiving for God's good created gifts?
3. How can we practice gratitude without falling into entitlement or idolatry of blessings?

## Interlinear Text

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ἀγιάζεται	γὰρ	διὰ	λόγου	θεοῦ	καὶ	ἐντεύξεως
it is sanctified	For	by	the word	of God	and	prayer
G37	G1063	G1223	G3056	G2316	G2532	G1783

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Timothy 4:3** (References God): Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

**1 Corinthians 7:14** (Holy): For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.

**Luke 4:4** (Word): And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

