



**“Our Prayer for the Future”**

1 Thessalonians 5:23-28

**Introduction:**

1 Thessalonians 5:23-28 – “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass. Brethren, pray for us. Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss. I adjure you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brethren. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.”

**I. The Prayer for the Future**

1 Thessalonians 5:23 – “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The God of Shalom: The God of Wholeness and Fulfillment

“May you accept God’s fullness in your life.”

1 Thessalonians 5:23 – “May the God of peace sanctify you entirely and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete...”

The material and immaterial parts of man –our bodies, our souls and our spirits –can all be completely impacted by the all-encompassing ministry of the God of Shalom.

“May we all experience the fullness of the Shalom of God in every area of our lives!”

John 10:10 – “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

John 14:27 – “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”

**Prayer-Wish #1: “May the God of Shalom do something completely different in your life.”**

1 Thessalonians 5:23 – “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely...”

sanctify = Greek: *hagiadzo* = make distinct/make holy

i.e., set apart for God and from the world

- We are aliens and strangers • We are a chosen race • We are a royal priesthood
- We are a people for God’s own possession • We are “in” the world but not “of” the world

The Process of Sanctification (i.e., “set-apart-ness”)

- In the past God set us apart as His Redeemed Ones  
We were saved from the penalty of sin (Positional Sanctification)
- In the present God is setting us apart as His Holy Ones  
We are being saved from the power of sin (Practical Sanctification)
- In the future God will set us apart as His Delivered Ones  
We will be saved from the presence of sin (Ultimate Sanctification)

- What are we going to do that makes us more like Jesus?
- How are we going to act that reveals even more clearly that we have been sanctified, set apart and called to be holy?

“May the God of Shalom do something completely different in all our lives.”

**Prayer-Wish #2: “May the God of Shalom finish what He started.”**

1 Thessalonians 5:23 – “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

We are a Precious Keepsake of God

“May the God of Shalom who considers us a precious keepsake, finish what He started in our lives.”

**II. The God who is Faithful**

1 Thessalonians 5:24 – “Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.”

Deuteronomy 7:9 – “Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments...”

**Reminder #1: Our faithful God has revealed Himself to us in the past.**

1 Thessalonians 5:24 – “Faithful is He who calls you...”

Psalms 37:3 – “Trust in the Lord and do good. Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness (Hebrew: feed on His faithfulness.)”

Assignment: A Timeline of God’s Faithfulness (Reflecting on the God’s Sightings in My Life)

**Reminder #2: Our faithful God is calling us in the present.**

1 Thessalonians 5:24 – “Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.”

Assignment: The Specific Callings of God in Our Lives

**Reminder #3: Our faithful God will finish what He started in the future.**

1 Thessalonians 5:24 – “Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.”

Philippians 1:6 – “For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Romans 8:28 – “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”

**III. The Practices for His Followers**

1 Thessalonians 5:25–28 – “Brethren, pray for us. Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss. I adjure you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brethren. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.”

**Practice #1: Pray for One Another**

1 Thessalonians 5:25 – “Brethren, pray for us.”

**Practice #2: Greet One Another**

1 Thessalonians 5:26 – “Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss.”

### **Practice #3: Share the Word with One Another**

1 Thessalonians 5:27 – “I adjure you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brethren.”

1 Timothy 4:13 – “Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching.”

Colossians 3:16 – “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another...”

### **Practice #4: Extend Grace to One Another**

1 Thessalonians 5:28 – “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.”

“May the undeserved grace and mercy of God surround your lives.”

“The will of God will never take us where the grace of God will not follow.”

### **Concluding Challenge:**

Ephesians 3:20-21 – “Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.”

Jude 1:24-25 – “Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.”

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Reflect on your time here at this church. What have been the highlights?

2. Fill out the following regarding what you believe God wants you to do in this season of your life:

- God is specifically calling me to minister to \_\_\_\_\_
- God is specifically calling me to give \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_
- God is specifically calling me to share my faith with \_\_\_\_\_
- God is specifically calling me to pray for \_\_\_\_\_
- God is specifically calling me to go to \_\_\_\_\_
- God is specifically calling me to disciple \_\_\_\_\_
- God is specifically calling me to learn \_\_\_\_\_

3. Reflect on the following practices for believers gathered in the same local church. Be specific as to your part in...

#1: Praying for one another

#2: Greeting one another

#3: Sharing the Word with one another

#4: Extending grace to one another

4. What did you get most out of this message?