



## Aspirations

### Our great aspiration is to please God

**1 Thessalonians 4:1** Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that, as you received from us *instruction* as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you may excel still more.

<sup>2</sup> For you know what commandments we gave you by *the authority* of the Lord Jesus.

### Aspiration 1 Sexual Purity

**1 Thessalonians 4:3** For this is the will of God, your sanctification; *that is*, that you abstain from sexual immorality;

<sup>4</sup> that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,

<sup>5</sup> not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

<sup>6</sup> *and* that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is *the* avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned *you*.

<sup>7</sup> For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.

<sup>8</sup> Consequently, he who rejects *this* is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.

### Aspiration 2 \_\_\_\_\_

#### **1 Thessalonians 4:9**

Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for *anyone* to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;

<sup>10</sup> for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more,

**2 Corinthians 8:1** Now, brethren, we *wish* to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia,

<sup>2</sup> that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.

<sup>3</sup> For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability *they gave* of their own accord,

<sup>4</sup> begging us with much entreaty for the favor of participation in the support of the saints,

<sup>5</sup> *and this*, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

**1 John 3:11** For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another;  
<sup>12</sup> not as Cain, *who* was of the evil one, and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

<sup>13</sup> Do not marvel, brethren, if the world hates you.

<sup>14</sup> We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.

<sup>15</sup> Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

<sup>16</sup> We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

<sup>17</sup> But whoever has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

<sup>18</sup> Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

### Aspiration 3 \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Thessalonians 4:11** and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you;

<sup>12</sup> so that you may behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need.

**2 Thessalonians 3:6** Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep aloof from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.

<sup>7</sup> For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you,

<sup>8</sup> nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we *kept* working night and day so that we might not be a burden to any of you;

<sup>9</sup> not because we do not have the right *to this*, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, that you might follow our example.

<sup>10</sup> For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone will not work, neither let him eat.

<sup>11</sup> For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies.

<sup>12</sup> Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread.

<sup>13</sup> But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good.

<sup>14</sup> And if anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that man and do not associate with him, so that he may be put to shame.

<sup>15</sup> And *yet* do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

**Ephesians 6:5** Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ;

<sup>6</sup> not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

<sup>7</sup> With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men,

<sup>8</sup> knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.

<sup>9</sup> And, masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

# Hope

**1 Thessalonians 4:13** But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope.

<sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep.

<sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first.

<sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:49** And just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

<sup>50</sup> Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

<sup>51</sup> Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

<sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

<sup>53</sup> For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

<sup>54</sup> But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory.

<sup>55</sup> "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

<sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;

<sup>57</sup> but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in* vain in the Lord.