



Spiritual Living – Week 6

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Overview

In our sixth and final message of *Fearless*, we look at four different attitudes and relationships we need in order to live unshaken by the swirl of this world around us. The fifth and final chapter of Thessalonians contains Paul's instructions on how to cultivate a spiritually vibrant life.

Discussion Questions

Four Keys to a Fearless Life

1. Live peaceably with one another.

Paul talks about our attitude towards one another in **verses 12-13**: **“And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. Be at peace among yourselves.”** Without honoring those who serve us and are in authority over us, there will not be peace in the camp. Why? Because order is maintained through healthy leadership and authority. We all need to have leaders and proper authorities in our lives to bring definition and boundaries, whether it's parents, teachers, coaches, bosses, political leaders or pastors.

- Why is it important to recognize those God has put in authority over us?

In **verse 14**, Paul gives us tools to relate to three groups of people: **“Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.”**

A. Warn the undisciplined. Some translations say “unruly,” “lazy,” or idle.” In a healthy church, there should be proper moments and environments where people can be coached up, encouraged and even challenged by other Believers in the areas of our lives that need improvement.

- Are you open to people speaking into your life?

B. Encourage the fainthearted. This group of people are down-hearted and discouraged. They need to be encouraged and lifted. They need a word of hope and affirmation. Paul is calling us to be sensitive to the needs of those around us.

- How does God help us take genuine interest in those around us so that we can discern what's going on to be part of the solution?

- C. Strengthen the weak.** The weak can include people who are physically weak, financially weak, or spiritually weak. They are not particularly discouraged or undisciplined—they just need help. Paul is asking us to do something practical that makes life better for them.
- What are practical ways to give help and support to those who are physically, financially, or spiritually weak?

2. Live with a good attitude—in spite of your circumstances.

Paul talks about our attitude toward circumstances in **verses 16-18: “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”**

- How is it possible to rejoice, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in the circumstances we find ourselves?

3. Live saturated with the Holy Spirit.

Verses 19-21 say, “Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good.” We need the fire and the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We need to fan the flame of the Holy Spirit. Also, we should not take spiritual gifts of the Spirit lightly. Do not discount what God may be saying just because He uses an imperfect human being to communicate His word to you. Because human beings are involved in the process of prophecies, they must be tested by God’s Word; however, because God is involved in the process, prophecies must not be despised.

- In what ways do we quench the Holy Spirit?

4. Live clean and flee temptation.

In order for us to have a healthy life and church filled with the Holy Spirit, then we must live godly lives. **Verses 22-24 say, “Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.”**

- What is our role in living a clean life in spirit, soul, and body?

Life Challenge

We have the option to live with a good attitude in spite of our circumstances. Why does choosing gratitude transform any situation? What circumstances in your life can negative attitudes and emotions be replaced with thankfulness?

Prayer

Father, thank You that the truth of Your Word shows us how to live a spiritually vibrant life. Your Holy Spirit empowers us to live in a way that brings glory to Your name. Thank You for Your faithfulness to do the heavy lifting in our lives. Amen. Pray for the specific needs of the group.