

*"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove (test) all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from ALL APPEARANCE of evil. And the very God of Peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved Blameless Unto The Coming Of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He that calleth you, Who ALSO WILL DO IT."  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 KJV*



In today's passage, Paul gives us the stepping stones of behavior which allow us control over the "body of this death" that unceasingly "lusteth against the Spirit."

These are not mere suggestions, but Commands given us by Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit inspired pen of His Apostle. I challenge you to follow these for just one day, and then another, and another until it becomes Holy habit. The longer and more often we do something the harder it is to break the habit. It's as simple as a morning cup of coffee. You like coffee, so it is easy to think of doing it. The work of preparation is given little thought in the delight of anticipation. So it is with the Christian walk. It will require preparation of mind and heart through reading, study, and meditation in God's Word and self-monitoring to start, but you will be delighted when you actually begin to hear God speak His Word to your heart and thoughts as you meditate. It will become anticipated delight and then you will be little bothered by the preparation. You'll know God's Voice by knowing God's Word which speaks in thought, prompted by some situation or conversation. "If ye KNOW these things, happy are ye IF YE DO THEM, for IF YE DO these things, ye shall NEVER FALL." Tired of sin in your life? This is the answer. Notice, the list begins with rejoicing, but about what do we rejoice? Thoughts which bring pleasure, friends, loved ones, starlight, gentle rain, blue skies, flowers, but most of all God's Promises and Heaven! The common denominator in all these is temporal, except God's Promises and Heaven. Jonathan Edwards said "Our best attempts to imagine or describe heavenly things do but cloud and darken their luster" The most fantastic imagination of Eternity's pleasures is simply a darkening of their beauty! In ancient times they would use smoked glass to filter sunlight to safely study the sun and its eclipses. It wasn't the clearest way to do it, but it saved their eyesight. We now see God "through a glass darkly," because we could not bear the full Light of Heavenly Glory and Revelation, the Apostle John fell as one dead, but there will be no need for filters in eternity! It doesn't mean we shouldn't try. It just means we can't over do it. Go ahead! Rejoice in contemplation of Eternal Life and Glory! Familiarity with Truth is half the battle! The more you know, the more you can rejoice! Walk in Truth, obey God's Word, and you'll walk with the KING every minute of life!

Contemplation of Truth and Love,  
Will bring one Joy from up above.  
Rejoicing paves our paths with Light,  
And we'll not stumble in the night. –CGP

*"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. God is light" and is brighter than a million galaxies and one Day, believers will be able to look directly at Him and see His Face!*

*"And the [New Jerusalem] had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the Glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the Light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the Light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the Gates of it shall not be shut at all by Day: for there shall be no night there." Revelation 21:23-25 KJV*