

1Thes 4: **1**Finally, then, brothers,<sup>a</sup> we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. **2**For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. **3**For this is the will of God, your sanctification that you abstain from sexual immorality; **4**that each one of you know how to control his own body<sup>c</sup> in holiness and honor, **5**not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; **6**that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. **7**For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. **8**Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

Hebrew 10: **26**For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, **27**but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. **28**Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. **29**How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?**30**For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.” **31**It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

1 Pet 1: **13**Therefore, preparing your minds for action,<sup>b</sup> and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. **14**As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, **15**but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, **16**since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.**22**For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, **23**but I see in my members waging another law war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. **24**Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? **25**Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

John 14: **26**But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Heb 4: **12**For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. **13**And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

2 Cor 4: 1Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God,<sup>a</sup> we do not lose heart. 2But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice<sup>b</sup> cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. 3And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God

2 Cor 3: 16But when one<sup>c</sup> turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. 17Now the Lord<sup>d</sup> is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord,<sup>e</sup> are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.<sup>f</sup> For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Ephes 1: 3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

Isa 6: 1In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train<sup>a</sup> of his robe filled the temple. 2Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”<sup>b</sup>

4And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. 5And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

Rom 1: 19For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world,<sup>g</sup> in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

Ps 16: 11You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore

## **God's Word makes the following points on what the Bible teaches that will maximize us knowing God and our joy in God:**

### **1.He commands us to be joyful in God**

Phil 4: **4**Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

James 1:**2**Count it all joy, my brothers,<sup>b</sup> when you meet trials of various kinds, **3**for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. **4**And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

1 Thes 5:**16**Rejoice always, **17**pray without ceasing, **18**give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. **19**Do not quench the Spirit. **20**Do not despise prophecies, **21**but test everything; hold fast what is good. **22**Abstain from every form of evil.

Ps 37: **4**Delight yourself in the LORD,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

### **2 God threatens terrible things if we will not be joyful in Him**

Deut 28: **47**Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart, because of the abundance of all things, **48**therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger and thirst, in nakedness, and lacking everything. And he will put a yoke of iron on your neck until he has destroyed you.

Ps 100: **1**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!  
**2**Serve the LORD with gladness!  
Come into his presence with singing!

**3**Know that the LORD, he is God!  
It is he who made us, and we are his;<sup>a</sup>  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture

### **3 Salvation is receiving the ultimate treasure**

Ephes 2: **4**But<sup>c</sup> God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, **5**even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved— **6**and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7**so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8**For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9**not a result of works, so that no one may

boast. **10**For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

#### **4 Evil is forsaking Happiness in God**

Jer 2:12-13 **12**Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the LORD,

**13**for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.

Rom 1: **21**For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.**22**Claiming to be wise, they became fools, **23**and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

**24**Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, **25**because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

Heb 12:**1**Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,**2**looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith

#### **5 Deny the self every comfort that would diminish joy in Christ**

Mark 8: **34**And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

**35**For whoever would save his life<sup>d</sup> will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. **36**For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?

John 12: **25**Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Heb 11: **24**By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, **25**choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God

than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. **26**He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the

## **6 Love for people drives us to pursue our joy in God**

Acts 20: **35**In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

1 John 4:**7**Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. **8**Anyone who does not love does n o t k n o w G o d , b e c a u s e G o d i s l o v e .

## **7 God is glorified in us when we are satisfied in Him**

Phil 1: Yes, and I will rejoice, **19**for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, **20**as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. **21**For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.