

A Challenge To Grow (4-5) -- 1 THESSALONIANS 4:7-12

5 PROCESSES for GROWTH

1. PROCESS OF BEING MADE HOLY !

For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.

1Thess 4:7

But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." 1 Pet 1:15-16

... let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

2 Cor 7-1

ACTION:

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalms 139:23-24

2. PROCESS OF STANDING ON GOD'S WORD !

Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit. **1Thess 4:8**

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. Prov 1:7

ACTION:

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. Matt 7:24

3. PROCESS OF LEARNING GOD'S LOVE !

Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. **1Thess 4:9**

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Rom 5:8

ACTION:

If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us...

1 John 15-17

4. PROCESS OF LOVING GOD'S PEOPLE !

And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, **1Thess 4:10**

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:18

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless. Phil 1:9-10

ACTION:

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 1 John 3:16

5. PROCESS OF LIVING A WORTHY LIFE !

and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, **1Thess 4:11**

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Rom 12:17-18

so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody. **1Thess 4:12**

ACTION:

Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Phil 4:5-6