

Regarding all of our responsibilities as believers, we must remember that we are only able to walk worthy of the Lord by the power of His Holy Spirit in us. So we better not quench the Spirit, or we won't be able to do anything according to God's will. To quench the Spirit means to resist His influence, like smothering a fire. We must yield to the direction and strength of the Spirit to be able to accept prophecies (God's Word), to test all things, to embrace what is good, and to reject what is evil.

List the parallels between the following passages. You may want to draw lines between matching concepts.

1 st Thessalonians 5:12-22	Galatians 5:22-26	Ephesians 5:17-21
12 recognize those laboring & leading + admonishing	v26 don't become conceited, provoking or envying	v17 don't be foolish, understand Lord's will v19 speak to one another in psalms, hymns
13 regard leaders highly in love	Love, v26 don't become conceited (humble self)	v20 give thanks for everything v21 Submit to one another in fear of Lord
13 be at peace among selves	v22 peace, patience, kindness	19 - speak - in psalms (encouraging) 21 - Submit to one another
14 Warn irresponsible comfort discouraged help the weak be patient w/ everyone	v22 - love, peace, patience kindness, goodness, gentleness, v26 don't be conceited, provoking (humble self)	17 - don't be foolish, understand will of Lord 18 - don't be drunk but filled w/ Spirit 19 - speak psalms etc - encourage
15 don't repay evil w/ evil always pursue good for one another	v22 love joy peace patience kindness goodness gentleness Self control! v25 follow Spirit	17 - don't be foolish - understand Lord's will 19 - speak psalms - etc
16 rejoice always	Joy, faith	18 - don't be drunk, filled w/ Spirit (joy!) 19 - speak psalms 20 - make music
17 pray constantly	Faith patience Self control follow Spirit	17-21 (all)
18 give thanks in everything	peace patience faith follow Spirit	20 - give thanks in everything to God in name of Jesus
19 don't stifle/quench Spirit	follow Spirit, self control	17 - don't be foolish - understand Lord's will 18 - don't be drunk, but filled w/ Spirit
20 don't despise prophecies	follow Spirit	↑ + 19 - speak psalms
21 test all things - hold good	follow Spirit	17-21 (all)
22 stay away from every kind of evil	self control, follow Spirit don't become conceited don't provoke one another don't envy one another	17 - don't be foolish - understand Lord's will 18 - don't be drunk - but filled w/ Spirit

Examine everything carefully! Hold on to what is good! Stay away from every kind of evil! That was critically important for the Thessalonians, and is just as important for us today. It's a powerful exhortation right before the end of Paul's letter.

And then Paul prays again. What a blessing this loving shepherd was to his brothers and sisters in Christ. He ministers to us as well. We will see how encouraging his prayer is in our next lesson.