

An aerial photograph of a zebra crossing on a city street. The crossing consists of alternating black and white horizontal stripes. Several pedestrians are walking across the crossing. In the top left, the lower legs and feet of two people are visible. In the top right, a man in a striped shirt and khaki pants is walking, looking down at his phone. In the middle left, a person in a light green shirt and dark pants is walking, carrying a white bag. In the middle right, a person in a black t-shirt and dark shorts is walking, carrying a brown bag. In the bottom left, a person in a white t-shirt and dark shorts is walking. In the bottom middle, a person in a plaid shirt and light pants is walking, carrying a bag. In the bottom right, a person is walking, holding a blue and white checkered umbrella. The shadows of the pedestrians are cast onto the white stripes of the crossing, indicating a bright, sunny day.

# LAST DAYS LIVING

A STUDY IN I & II THESSALONIANS

**“Pleasing God with Our Speech”**

**I THESSALONIANS 4:18**

*12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you  
an evil, unbelieving heart,  
leading you to fall away from the living God.*

*13 But exhort one another every day,  
as long as it is called “today,” **that none of you  
may be hardened** by the deceitfulness of sin.*

**Hebrews 3:12-13**

*Death and life are in the power of the tongue,  
and those who love it will eat its fruits.*

**Proverbs 18:21**

*Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down,  
but a good word makes him glad.*

**Proverbs 12:25**

*A gentle tongue is a tree of life,  
but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.*

**Proverbs 15:4**

## KEY POINT:

**We please God by using our words for good.**

1. What is encouragement?
2. When should we encourage?
3. Why does Paul teach encouragement in Thessalonians?
4. How can we be more encouraging?

## **4 Questions**



# 1. What is encouragement?

- a. From Greek *parakaleo*
- b. Meaning “to call, to summon” (Matt 8:5), “to admonish, to exhort” (Luke 3:18), “to encourage, to cheer, to comfort” (Matt 5:4; II Cor 1:4, 6)
- c. “a courage transfusion” (Charles Swindoll)

**4 Questions**

*15 David saw that Saul had come out to seek his life. David was in the wilderness of Ziph at Horesh. 16 And Jonathan, Saul's son, rose and went to David at Horesh, and strengthened his hand in God.*

**I Samuel 23:15-16**

“The best kind of encouragement is when the person doing the encouraging genuinely loves the other individual and expresses it. That’s our friend Jonathan. In such situations the person needing encouragement honestly admits his fear, which causes a meaningful connection between the two.

In that situation, soul meets with soul.”



**Charles Swindoll**  
*Growing Deep  
in the Christian Life*

1. What is encouragement?

2. When should we encourage?

**4 Questions**

*<sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,  
<sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together,  
as is the habit of some, **but encouraging one another**, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

**Hebrews 10:24-25**

1. What is encouragement?
2. When should we encourage?
3. Why does Paul teach encouragement to the Thessalonians?

**4 Questions**

1. Events of vs. 13-17
2. Their certainty
3. The expectation of reunion
4. The irreversibility of these events
5. The eternal prospect

**What Should Comfort the Thessalonians?**

1. What is encouragement?
2. When should we encourage?
3. Why does Paul teach encouragement to the Thessalonians?
4. How can we be more encouraging?
  - a. Learn to talk less (Jas 1:19).

**4 Questions**



“Just as love to God  
begins with listening to  
his Word,  
so the beginning of love  
for the brethren is  
learning to listen  
to them.”



**Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

1. What is encouragement?
2. When should we encourage?
3. Why does Paul teach encouragement in Thessalonians?
4. How can we be more encouraging?
  - a. Learn to talk less (Jas 1:19).
  - b. Think before you speak (Jas 1:19; Prov 13:3).

## 4 Questions

1. What is encouragement?
2. When should we encourage?
3. Why does Paul teach encouragement in Thessalonians?
4. How can we be more encouraging?
  - a. Learn to talk less (Jas 1:19).
  - b. Think before you speak (Jas 1:19; Prov 13:3).
  - c. Examine your motives (Phil 2:3-4).

**4 Questions**

1. What is encouragement?
2. When should we encourage?
3. Why does Paul teach encouragement in Thessalonians?
4. How can we be more encouraging?
  - a. Learn to talk less (Jas 1:19).
  - b. Think before you speak (Jas 1:19; Prov 13:3).
  - c. Examine your motives (Phil 2:3-4).
  - d. Be gentle in your speech (Prov 15:4).

**4 Questions**

1. What is encouragement?
2. When should we encourage?
3. Why does Paul teach encouragement in Thessalonians?
4. How can we be more encouraging?
  - a. Learn to talk less (Jas 1:19).
  - b. Think before you speak (Jas 1:19; Prov 13:3).
  - c. Examine your motives (Phil 2:3-4).
  - d. Be gentle in your speech (Prov 15:4).
  - e. Develop the habit of encouragement (I Thess 4:17; 5:18).

## 4 Questions

1. What is encouragement?
2. When should we encourage?
3. Why does Paul teach encouragement in Thessalonians?
4. How can we be more encouraging?
  - a. Learn to talk less (Jas 1:19).
  - b. Think before you speak (Jas 1:19; Prov 13:3).
  - c. Examine your motives (Phil 2:3-4).
  - d. Be gentle in your speech (Prov 15:4).
  - e. Develop the habit of encouragement.
  - f. Be specific in your encouragement.

## 4 Questions

2. When should we encourage?
3. Why does Paul teach encouragement in Thessalonians?
4. How can we be more encouraging?
  - a. Learn to talk less (Jas 1:19).
  - b. Think before you speak (Jas 1:19; Prov 13:3).
  - c. Examine your motives (Phil 2:3-4).
  - d. Be gentle in your speech (Prov 15:4).
  - e. Develop the habit of encouragement.
  - f. Be specific in your encouragement.
  - g. Copy the example of Barnabas  
(Acts 4:32-37; 9:22-27; 11:19-24).

## 4 Questions

*that their hearts may be encouraged,  
being knit together in love, to reach all the riches  
of full assurance of understanding and the  
knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ,*

**Colossians 2:2**