1Thess #62

The Believer pleases God by drawing closer to HIM.

We will open up in 1Thessalonians chapter 4 and once again read the first five verses – yet our main focus will be on verse one.

/1Thes 4:1 Finally then, brothers *and sisters,* we request and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received *instruction* from us as to how you **ought to walk and please God** (just as you actually do walk), that you excel *even* more.\

We have noted the importance of walking in the new nature and now we look at drawing closer to GOD to please HIM.

[1Th 4:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/4/2/s_1115002) For you know what instructions we gave you by *the authority of* the Lord Jesus.

[1Th 4:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/4/3/s_1115003) For this is the will of God, your sanctification; *that is,* that you abstain from sexual immorality;

You as a Bel are set apart and blessed with the grace gifts of GOD - therefore live in your blessings and callings.

That how we get closer to God.

[1Th 4:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/4/4/s_1115004) that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,

[1Th 4:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/4/5/s_1115005) not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

Unbels can talk about God and spirituality. But it is all talk, the Bible is abundantly clear on true godliness, real spirituality.

It can not exist in a fallen man because we are depraved and separated from God at birth. Until we have a supernatural, union with Christ - we can never be spiritual or truly know God.

We are only close to God thru TLJC!

Unbels can have a curiosity about God and even desires toward God, but there is no intimacy with God without Christ.

Unbels will replace faith alone in Christ alone, with religious and spiritual counterfeits - but it is not godliness or spirituality as the Bible describes.

/Unbels and weak Bels may claim they can please God or they know God. Yet the truth is, without BD circulating in a Spirit filled soul, they are usually speaking about emotional waves. Giving to charity and acts of kindness, are not spirituality or pleasing to GOD if the motivation isn’t from HIS word and driven by the power of God the HS.\

The reality is there are about 7 different ways we please God in relation to what the scriptures tells us.

/1. Reaching maturity and having a foundation of virtue love evident in our life.

2. Within prayer and lifestyle we seek HIS will not our own.

3. We live a life that is separate from the cosmic system.

4. Doing the will of God in application of our life choices. \

Jump over to Ephesians chapter four RF.

Each one of these principles drive us closer toward God. So you cannot claim to be close to GOD, without these types of principles active in your life.

/5. Having consistent fellowship with HIM.

6. Praising and elevating God in word, song and action.

7. Having real faith-rest in our life.\

These seven standards and lifestyle choices are truly what the Bible teaches us will please GOD.

Let us look at number one – reaching levels of maturity, having Impersonal, unconditional love active in our life;

/Eph 4:1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, urge you **to walk in a manner worthy of the calling** with which you have been called, 2 with **all humility** and **gentleness**, with **patience**, bearing with one another **in love** (*agape’*),\

These are the signs and symbols that a Bel is reaching upward into SM. Because the evidence of virtue love, is touching outward to others.

Humility, gentleness and patience toward others – bearing with other people from the foundation of virtue love.

The stronger emphasis is on other Bels. Mature Bels have a way of bringing unity not division because they operate from virtue love.

/[Eph 4:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/4/3/s_1101003) being diligent **to keep the unity of the Spirit**in the bond of peace.

God is pleased when Bels can overcome adversity or strife and come together in unity with reliance upon the filling power of God the HS.\

God always has a heart of reconciliation and restoration.

Anytime you have Bels going forward in truth and one or more begin to bring strife into that group - it is a red flag.

A red flag that you should attempt to reconcile quickly or sever that problem and trouble maker from the group.

God loves the peacemaker… if the peacemaker is not compromising BD.

 REPEAT

The next one we look at in reference to pleasing God, has to do with our communication in prayer and our wishes toward God.

King Solomon had his share of failures yet his earnest desire and prayer when he was given great power pleased GOD;

/1Ki 3:9 “So **give Your servant an understanding heart** to judge Your people, **to discern between good and evil.** For who is capable of judging this great people of Yours?” 10 Now it **was pleasing in the sight of the Lord** that Solomon had asked this thing.\

Your deep desires and prayer toward God reflect who you truly are and where you are in your spiritual walk.

Solomon could have asked for anything. Yet he wanted divine wisdom and he genuinely wanted to be a good, Godly leader.

This was pleasing to God because it aligns with true spirituality from a Bels growth.

Mature Bels do not seek selfish gains.

 REPEAT

Go over to Hebrews chapter 13 RF.

Our next principle related to pleasing God is really how we separate ourselves from the cosmic system;

/2Tim 2:4 **No soldier in active service entangles** himself **in the affairs of everyday life**, so that he may please the one who enlisted *him.*

The details and distraction of the cosmic system do not detour the Christian soldier who is advancing! \

EM-PLEC-OH, (*emplekō)-* is the same word (entangle) used in Heb 12:1, sin that entangles us – the sin and distractions that so easily weaves itself, entangles into our life, it trips us up!

It is something we allow to be woven into our life…self-induced misery.

Combat soldiers who have experience and are battle harden, do not fall for the traps and tricks or distractions of the enemy.

God is pleased when the spiritual combat does not make the Bel shy away. Or when the details of life do not pull the spiritual soldier away from their duties.

Our next principle revolves around aligning our life under the will or the plan of God;

Heb 13:20 Now may the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, *that is,* Jesus our Lord,

/[Heb 13:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/heb/13/21/s_1146021) **equip you in every good thing to do His will**, working in us that **which is pleasing in His sight**, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.

When we do the right thing in the right way, aligning our life with the will of God. Being directly in the plan of God, we please GOD.\

God is pleased when we take all the grace gifts given at salvation and begin to make them unfold in our life on a regular basis.

The next principle that the Bible teaches us concerning pleasing God - is related to our true intimacy and fellowship with HIM directly;

/Heb 11:5 By faith Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death; AND HE WAS NOT FOUND BECAUSE GOD TOOK HIM UP; for before he was taken up, **he was attested**(*martyreō)***to have been pleasing to God.\**

MART-OH-RAYO, comes from a Greek root word where we get the English word - martyr from.

One who lays their life down in service to GOD.

It was witnessed in his life and actions that Enoch was a man who literally laid his life down for GOD.

/Gen 5:24 **Enoch walked** (*hālaḵ)* **with God;** and he was not, for God took him.

This term was often used for a lifestyle. Not just physical walking but a spiritual and moral choice or standard. \

HA-LACH, this was used for Noah as well, to describe a man completely dedicated to the plan of God.

Enoch was removed before the earth was saturated with demonic forces and before the flood.

He had a very intimate relationship with God during a time of the rise of the children of Cain became a serpent culture of evil.

The next principle of pleasing God is done in word, song and elevating God on high!

/Psa 69:30 **I will praise the name of God with song, And exalt Him** with
thanksgiving. 31 And **it will please the LORD**better than an ox Or bull with
horns and hoofs.\

Rituals do not please God, especially rituals without reality.

If you truly are reaching levels of maturity you will respond emotionally in the proper fashion. Respond by being in the word and praising God through the accuracy of the word and even within songs.

Do not get this twisted – music ministry will not gain a Bel any growth. It takes a mature Bel to understand the emotional response of worshipping God in song.

When it is done in the right fashion it can please God – this was David who was a man after God’s own heart and knew how to elevate God in song through the accuracy of the word.

 REPEAT

Finally, the last one that matters concerning pleasing God, has to do with a key problem solving device – faith-rest;

/Heb 11:6 And **without faith it is impossible to please *Him****,* for the one who comes to God must believe that He exists, and *that* He proves to be One who rewards those who seek Him.\

Your level of faith is exposed during times of adversity and challenges.

It is impossible to please God as an immature Bel whose faith, fluctuates between trusting in God’s plan and trusting in the cosmic system.

Bels on the fence of faith are not prepared and cannot please GOD!

Let us close in Ephesians chapter five.

Your lifestyle reveals to God what level of spiritual growth you are at;

/Rom 12:1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice**, **acceptable to God**, which is your spiritual service of worship.

Your lifestyle and norms and standards determine what level of service you are at inside the plan of God.\

It is never about perfection it is about participation and responsibility – what are you doing with the time, talent and treasure, God has bestowed upon you at salvation?

We get closer to God by applying that which HE gave us at salvation.

/2Cor 5:9 Therefore **we also have as our ambition,** whether at home or absent**, to be pleasing to Him.**

Your ambition points to your motivation. Your motivation either comes from the WORD circulating in your soul or your own fleshly desires. \

There was a silence from the Apostle Paul for few years when he went out of the geographical will of God. He went into reversionism by going to Jerusalem. After he came out of it he wrote several letters and Ephesians was one of them.

The Roman imprisonment and his prison epistles -  Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon.

/Eph 5:8 for you were once darkness, but now *you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light*

You are given a new nature – learn to walk in the light of Christ, that is the key to pleasing God.\

[Eph 5:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/5/9/s_1102009) (for the fruit of the light *consists* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),

The fruit of the light is that which comes forth from BD in the soul.

Fruit of the Spirit is the nature of TLJC when it begins to manifest itself in the Bels life.

When the mind of CHRIST becomes alive and active in your life the Fruit of the Spirit will naturally come out.

/[Eph 5:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/5/10/s_1102010) **as you try to learn**  (*dokimazō*to) what is pleasing to the Lord.

Present tense – the Bel keeps on testing and evaluating themselves. Using BD as your gauge, you test yourself. \

DOC-EE-MOZ-O, means to test something.

Verses 8 - 9 and 10 flow together in reference to a Bel growing in God’s plan…learning how to apply BD.

/As we grow toward mature we are drawing closer to God and thus pleasing God more and more over time. Spiritual growth is impossible from the emotional standpoint, it is based on knowledge that turns into wisdom. Emotions were designed to respond and elevate God as a response.\

People attempt to get closer to God by works programs or emotions.

/Rom 8:8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Mat 7:21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. \

The will of God the Father is first and foremost that we all come to know HIS precious Son Jesus Christ.

After that HE desires that we grow in HIS grace and knowledge of TLJC.

/Col 1:10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;\

The first step to draw closer to God is faith alone in Christ alone – believing upon HIS only begotten SON.

After that, the calling is to get deeper into the mind of Christ which is the WORD.

There is no way to be closer to God and please GOD without understanding the WORD that became flesh and dwelt among us.