

DIGGIND DEEPER (cont.)

3. Read 1Thessalonians 5:19-24 and answer the following questions.

- a. What might Paul mean by “quench the Spirit” and “treat prophecies with contempt”? Why do you think he deemed it necessary to include these in his letter?

- b. In verses 23 and 24, he reveals both the purpose behind obedience of the aforementioned commands, and our hope throughout this process. What is the purpose? Who is our hope? What is the end result?

TAKING IT HOME

1. Preparation for future events and activities is essential. How is God asking you to prepare yourself for spiritual growth and ministry participation?

2. Knowing that Christ could return at any moment, briefly describe how you want to live your life as a Christian.

SUNDAY NOV. 20, 2016

Series: “Finding Hope When Life Throws You A Curveball”

Message #8: “When a Curveball Causes You To Lose Control”

By: Pastor Mark Brunott

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MESSAGE NOTES:

To live an abundant life: Obey **God’s will for the Church.**

- Regarding spiritual leaders:
Accept them. Appreciate them. Love them.
- Church members that need special help:
The lazy. The timid. The weak.

To live an **abundant life: Follow God’s will for you.**

- Be joyful always.
- Never stop praying.
- Be thankful in all circumstances.

To live an abundant life: Know God’s Word for you.

- Don’t stifle the Spirit.
- Don’t scoff at prophecies.

To live an abundant life: **Experience God’s work in you.**

- Stay away from evil.
- Commit yourself to grow in holiness.

Five very important words

- God will make this happen.

LIFE GROUP HOMEWORK:

QUICK REVIEW

Pastor Mark mentioned four gifts from God that enable us to live an abundant life. What are they? Which one stands out the most to you?

MY STORY

1. Name an influential person in your life. What made this person so impactful?
2. Describe a situation when you felt responsible for someone else. What did this feel like? How did you respond?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 hones in on those who were leaders in the church. Read these verses and answer the following questions.
 - a. What are some specific ways Paul commands us to treat our spiritual leaders? Why do you think he addresses this?
 - b. Take a look at Hebrews 13:17. What reason is given for obeying church leaders? How might it be “unprofitable” for you to cause your leaders to lead with grief? What are some tangible examples of obeying and submitting to our leaders?
2. 1 Thessalonians 5:14-18 calls each reader to spiritual leadership. Read those verses and take time to answer the following questions.
 - a. Find all of the verbs in these verses (some of them are two-word phrases). In what ways do they relate to being or becoming a spiritual leader?
 - b. At the end of verse 18, Paul gives a reason for all of the commands – what is it? Why might Paul be directing these commands to everyday citizens? How do they apply to us today?
 - c. Have a group member read Acts 16:16-26. Discuss Paul and Silas’s reaction to being imprisoned. How are their reactions an example of the commands Paul gives in his letter to the people of Thessalonica? What were the ultimate results of their reaction? Do you think the event in verse 26 is God’s response to their reaction? Why or why not?