

1 Thessalonians 5:12-15 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17

<sup>12</sup> But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, <sup>13</sup> and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.

<sup>14</sup> We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. <sup>15</sup> See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.

1 Thessalonians 5:12–15 (NASB95)

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; <sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NASB95)<sup>1</sup>

## How to Help People

or

## An Urgent Order From God: Give Others What They Need!

Today's Study *How can I give people the help they really need?*

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 Where to Find Good Advice, From God
  - Scripture is Accurate and Useful
- 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15 Respecting Leaders and Helping Other Believers
  - Appreciating and Respecting Our Leaders → Living in Peace with Other Believers [5:12-13]
  - An Urgent Command: **Admonish the Unruly** [5:14]
  - An Urgent Command: **Encourage the Fainthearted** [5:14]
  - An Urgent Command: **Help the Weak** [5:14]
  - For Everyone: Patience and Seeking Good [5:14-15]
- 1 Thessalonians 5:14 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17 “Timothy” Truth Helps Us Know How To Obey the “Thessalonians” Commands
  - Admonish: Teach ... **Reprove** ... **Correct** ... Train
  - Encourage: Teach (*remind*) ... Reprove ... Correct ... Train (*team*)
  - Help: **Teach** ... Reprove ... Correct ... **Train**

*To provide real help, identify the problem accurately  
... and use the right tool for the job!*

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<sup>1</sup> *New American Standard Bible : 1995 update*. 1995. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

## PRINCIPLES – For Giving People the Help They Really Need

[These “Principles” are (1) restatements of the truth found in the Scripture text, or (2) valid conclusions based on that truth. Believe and act on these “Principles” only if you – *yourself* – see the truths in Scripture that validate these Principles.]

1. *Whenever possible, provide what the Bible prescribes.* The Bible – alone – contains information (1) that is completely accurate and (2) that is powerfully effective in helping believers change. First, I must learn how God’s Word applies to my daily living. Then, I must provide help to others based on the truth and wisdom of Scripture!
2. *Different problems require different responses.* To help someone, I must be able (1) to identify the real problem and (2) to provide an effective solution.
3. If the problem is poor performance due to lack of personal discipline, *I must provide loving confrontation and redirection ... leading to good habits.*
4. If the problem is poor performance due to paralyzing anxiety and fearfulness, *I must provide encouragement ... the comfort and courage that comes from the personal encouragement in God’s truth and strong faith.*
5. If the problem is poor performance due to personal weakness (personal inability), *I must provide additional strength ... my strength. Then I must work to build up his or her strength.*
6. For each of these performance problems, real help will require (1) my *patience* and (2) my commitment to work effectively *for his or her good.*

SCRIPTURE – Memorize, For Quick Use When You Need It! 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15

**We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.<sup>2</sup>**

FOLLOW-UP – Begin to Turn “Knowing” Into “Living”

1. Memorize 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15. If I am to do what this Scripture urges me to do, which of my actions will have to change? ... who may I be able to help?
2. For each Principle, create at least one Personal Application: State how this general truth (for all believers) relates to you *personally* and *specifically* to your faithfulness to God ... relative to people you know and relative to situations you experience.
3. This week, review the Scriptures in this study and compare a few related Scriptures:
  - **admonish the unruly ...** Acts 20:31; Romans 15:14; 1 Corinthians 4:14; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15; Titus 2:1-15
  - **encourage the fainthearted ...** Romans 15:4; 1 Thessalonians 2:7-11
  - **help the weak ...** Acts 20:35; Romans 15:1-3; Hebrews 12:12

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<sup>2</sup> *New American Standard Bible : 1995 update.* 1995. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.