



# More Than Words

## Sermon Series on 1 Thessalonians

September - November 2009

This Book Belongs to \_\_\_\_\_

# “Test Don’t Tire”

*Scripture:* 1 Thessalonians 5:19 - 28

## Introduction

Camping has got to be one of the best activities in the world for little boys and girls. Where else...when else, is lighting a fire not only tolerated, it's expected? Name another place or time when getting dirty is encouraged? Of course, the campfire is the centerpiece of every good camping experience.



When the fire is made right, it burns bright and hot. When it's not done right, it produces a great deal of smoke, but not much heat.

Fires require some work and effort in order to produce real heat. Faith is the same. Fanning into flame the passion of a person only takes a little effort and encouragement (encouragement goes a long way). However, another truth should be kept in mind: It only takes a little cold water thrown on the faith of a struggling believer to put out the Spirit's fire.

Our role is to test everything...but that doesn't mean to extinguish the flames of the Spirit that are burning within a person. Sometimes when we are testing, we are also tiring – wearing people out. Test? Yes! Tire? No!

## Sermon Notes

Our walk with Christ and with each other must go beyond \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul says that we should never \_\_\_\_\_ faith or \_\_\_\_\_ the expression of God's will (prophecy).

\_\_\_\_\_ is a process that should always move towards \_\_\_\_\_...but never really \_\_\_\_\_.

The Apostles shared the concern of God for us: Our \_\_\_\_\_ being and our \_\_\_\_\_ salvation.

The final word of this message: Go with \_\_\_\_\_.

## Your Own Thoughts

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## Small Talk

The holiday season can bring some people real excitement. I've found that different elements affect different people in different ways. If you're one of those people who get "fired up" about the holidays, share with the group one simple thing that causes you great excitement.

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## Text Talk

1. In closing the letter to the Thessalonians, Paul has a shotgun approach (throws a number of different ideas at them that seem to scatter across the Christian-living spectrum). What are the “do’s” and the “don’t do’s” mentioned in this text? Use the chart below to write them down.

Do’s

Don’ts

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. Paul instructs the Christians to test everything. What does he mean by this?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why do you think Paul wants this letter read to the entire church?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Life Talk

1. What actions do you believe tend to put out the fires of faith? What has a negative affect on you?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What actions really fan your flames of faith? What simple things can people do that energize your faith with very little effort?

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3. When you think about your “whole spirit” or your complete person, how is your faith doing? What are you involved with right now that builds your faith and what are you involved with right now that drains your faith?

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4. Paul ends this letter with instructions on what we should do when we greet each other “*Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss.*” His ending is about our beginnings. How important is a greeting to you personally?

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## **Beyond Talk**

This study has been an encouragement to move *beyond words* into actions. During this study, share with the group how you’ve put these teachings into practice and made your faith more than words.

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**15555 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE  
Shoreline, WA 98155  
[www.nwchurch.net](http://www.nwchurch.net)  
206.364.2275**