

## THE RETURN OF OUR HOPE

PART FOUR: *WE ARE FOREVER WALKING*

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 ♦ Pastor Dean Lancaster ♦ September 28, 2025

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With the help of the Holy Spirit, we will walk the path God has set us upon. Each day is an opportunity to step forward on God's path for us. In this passage we given the steps to walk as Jesus walked.

### Followers of Jesus keep following Jesus.

**1 Thessalonians 4:1–2** *Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you in the name of the Lord Jesus to live in a way that pleases God, as we have taught you. You live this way already, and we encourage you to do so even more. For you remember what we taught you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.*

Pleasing God ought to be the major focus of a follower of Jesus.

The Christian life begins with a step of faith.

Walking means we are progressing.

Some obstacles on our walk are more difficult.

### Followers of Jesus live separately.

**1 Thessalonians 4:3–5** *God's will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin. Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor—not in lustful passion like the pagans who do not know God and his ways.*

The word 'holy' means separate from sin; it is what God is.

Lust demands that needs be met immediately, where love will wait until God's timing is complete.

Sin radiates outward, and cannot be contained.

### Followers of Jesus have help.

**1 Thessalonians 4:6–8** *Never harm or cheat a fellow believer in this matter by violating his wife, for the Lord avenges all such sins, as we have solemnly warned you before. God has called us to live holy lives, not impure lives. Therefore, anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human teaching but is rejecting God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.*

When we choose not to engage with the Holy Spirit, we harm ourselves, others and our fellowship (church).

The Holy Spirit lives in us to provide the power to follow.

God provides the power for living holy, but followers must actively participate in this effort.

In moments of temptation God will provide not only the power but the desire (will) to follow Him. **Philippians 2:12–13**

### Take this with you...

The culture we live in contradicts our faith.

The Holy Spirit equips us to walk apart from our culture.

We must be sure to "walk in the light" for the enemy has put traps and detours to catch us. **1 John 1:5–7**

At the end of life's walk, we will step into the presence of the Lord.