THE ABCS OF OUR FAITH
Sermon Outline & Devotional Guide
1 Thessalonians 5:12-22
November 8, 2026
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What Are The ABCs of Our Faith That Paul Lists?

1. **A = _____ your spiritual leaders (vv. 12-13a).**

Paul Says That Churches Are To Appreciate Their Pastors For 3 Reasons From vv. 12-13a

(a) Their _____ labor — "Diligent labor" is the Greek New Testament word is "kopiaō" and it refers to hard, long and laborious hours.
(b) Their _____ over you — This is the Greek New Testament word "proistēmi" and it means "to stand before" and conveys the notion of authoritatively presiding, leading or directing.
(c) Their giving of _____ to you — This is the Greek New Testament word "noutheteō" and it is often translated as "admonish. This word means to "admonish with the purpose to confront."

† *Ephesians 4:11-13, Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. 12Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ. 13This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ" (NLT).*

2. **B = _____ with one another (vs. 13b).**

3. **C = _____ lovingly the spiritually undisciplined. (vs. 14a).**

- In verse 14, Paul uses the word "unruly." This is the Greek New Testament word is "ataktos." This us a military word that came to refer to anyone who did not perform his duty or follow through on his responsibility. They were indolent, apathetic, passive, irresponsible and undisciplined. They had gone spiritually AWOL.

† *2 Thessalonians 3:6-7, 11, "Keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us. 7For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you . . . 11For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies" (NASB).*

4. **D = _____ encourage the fainthearted and help the weak (vs . 14b).**

- The "fainthearted" could refer to those experiencing _____.
- "Help the weak" refers to helping those who have _____ in their faith and who are susceptible to _____ and who _____ with abandoning their sin.
- Paul used the word "encouraged". It is the Greek New Testament word [παραμυθέομαι; paramutheomai] and it means "to come along side of someone to help them _____."

5. **E = _____ patience with everyone (vs. 14c).**

- Patience is the Greek New Testament word is "makrothumeō" and it means "to forbear with those who struggle; to not quit; to not walk out; and to not give up." It comes from two words "macro" = long and "thumeo" = temper. You have a long fuse, not a short fuse.

† *Proverbs 16:32, "He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city" (NASB).*

6. **F = _____ rather than seek revenge when mistreated (vs. 15).**

† *Matthew 5:43-33, "You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. 44But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!" (NLT).*

7. G = _____ in rejoicing (vs. 16).

- It means facing even the toughest days with optimism not because you've got everything under control, but because you know _____.

8. H = _____ prayer as the first line of defense not as the last resort (vs. 17).

9. I = _____ thanks in everything (vs. 18).

10. J - _____ God in the work of the Holy Spirit (vs. 19).

- What does "quench" mean"? This is the Greek New Testament word is "sbennumi." It means "to extinguish, to put out, two stifle, to retard" the energy or power of something, and in this case the Holy Spirit.

11. K = _____ a love for God's Word in your life (vs. 20).

12. L = _____ to keep yourself from the attraction and temptation of evil (vv. 21-22).

- Paul uses the word "abstain" here. This is the greek New Testament word is "apechō" and it means "to hold oneself away from; to take whatever measures are necessary to avoid capture."

† *Matthew 6:13, "And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil" (NASB).*

********** Next Steps Devotional Questions**********

1. As you look over these 12 ABCs of our faith, what are the top 3 you need to make a priority in your life now and why?
2. Which of these 12 are you the most weak in spiritually and how can Southside help you make them a strength?
3. Which Scriptures do you not obey and in what areas of your life are you quenching the power and the work of the Holy Spirit in your life?