

Celebrating the Consecrated Church, Part 1

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: 1 Thessalonians 1.
- B. Paul celebrates the church of Thessalonica.
- C. Paul reveals the ingredients of a church that can be celebrated.
- D. The role of the pastor and the response of the people must be right.
- E. The pastor has three priorities.

II. Prayer. (Acts 6:4)

- A. What the pastor prays for.
 - 1. He prays for the spiritual growth and well-being of his people.
 - 2. He prays for their love.
 - 3. He prays for their consistency.
 - 4. He prays for their usefulness. (2 Thessalonians 1:11)
 - 5. He prays for their peace. (2 Thessalonians 3:16)
- B. The pastor is to be praying continually. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

III. Proclamation.

- A. The Spirit gives us power to witness. (Acts 1)
- B. When the message comes with the Spirit there is much assurance.
- C. The thing we ought to fear is the loss of the power of God's Spirit.

IV. Pattern.

- A. The most effective proclaiming and praying comes from men who live it out.
- B. The chief characteristic of integrity is that it is willing to suffer for what it believes without compromise.

Application Questions:

1. How would you respond to someone that says a pastor who prays all the time is no worldly good?

2. Why must proclamation be accompanied by God's power?

3. What pastors have you admired for their pattern? What did you admire about them?
