

Bible Chat week starting 2nd October 2022

Start with a chat about Wonder:

1. Try to come up with a group definition of the word 'wonder'. If you have trouble, just go with the one David found online: *A feeling of amazement and admiration, caused by something beautiful, remarkable, or unfamiliar.*
2. Share a recent experience of feeling wonder. If you have no such recent experience, go further back.
3. Share examples from the Bible of people experiencing wonder. How did they respond?
4. Can anyone also think of examples of wonder in literature, film or history?
5. Explore the relationship between wonder and spirituality.

Now read this passage from 1 Thessalonians chapter 5:

12 Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. 13 Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. 14 And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not treat prophecies with contempt 21 but test them all; hold on to what is good, 22 reject every kind of evil.

23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

25 Brothers and sisters, pray for us. 26 Greet all God's people with a holy kiss. 27 I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers and sisters.

28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Now make some connections with our reading:

1. As you review this passage, how might it apply to our life as a church?
2. David argued that this teaching, if lived out, would give us some potentially wonderful experiences. To what degree would you agree? What might you find wonderful here?
3. Verses 16 - 22 might be regarded as dealing with spiritual activities. They describe a vigorous dynamic spirituality in which people may sense God speaking. How do you respond to this? Would we be open to continual prayer, and to people sharing a sense of how God's Spirit is leading them as individuals or us as a church? How might that work in practice for us?