

***Growing Stronger in Christ***

Walking the hard but steady path of spiritual maturity

1 Thessalonians

**I Wish to God**

-Praying stronger for other believers-

*(1 Thessalonians 3:11-13)*

*Pray that God clears away problems that prevent fruitful ministry to others* (v. 11)

**James 4:13-17**

13Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— 14yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. 15Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” 16As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. 17So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

*Pray for love and care for others to move to the next level* (v. 12)

Examples of Next Level love

* Apologize to someone for hurtful things you have done to them even though they wronged you more.
* Spend valued time with someone who can offer you little in return.
* Confront someone you love over a sinful habit because their holiness depends on it.
* Encourage someone for service that no one else notices.
* Do a difficult chore for someone else without them requesting it and without drawing attention to it.
* Join in thankful prayer with someone who has received something from God that you wish you had.
* Invite someone to your house for a meal that you do not really know well so that you can get better acquainted. Then, talk about them instead of yourself.

*Pray for greater holiness of life by increasing sacrificial love* (v. 13)

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