**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. March 19, 2017**

**The Internal Workings Of A Healthy Church**

**Part II**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-28

**Key Truth:** Disciples grow effectively in a healthy church environment.

**Three Imperatives for the Church:**

1. Rejoice always – knowing God is at work on behalf of

 His children is reason enough to rejoice.

2. Pray always – live a life of dependence on God.

3. Gives thanks in all circumstances – Thanking God is

 always appropriate.

**Three Instructions for Worship and Discipleship:**

1. Don’t put God in a box.

 A. God still speaks.

2. Don’t believe everything you hear.

 A. Be discerning about everything.

 B. The spoken word will never contradict the written

 Word. ACTS 17:11

 C. Obey the truth.

3. Reject unholy living.

**Remember the God of our Salvation**

1. Salvation begins and ends with God.

2. We’re in this fight together.

3. We’re the family of God.

**Taking it beyond the walls:** Live a life of gratitude toward God and grace toward others.

**Connection Group Study Questions**

**Quick Review:** Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

**Getting to Know You**:

How is your spiritual growth? Have you increased in your joy, prayer, and love for others during this 10-week Connection Group?

**Read Galatians 5:16-24**. Does your life reflect more the works of the flesh or the fruit of the Spirit? What kind of life characteristics are you demonstrating for others? What habits will they establish by following you?

**Read Romans 12:3-8:** How are we to exercise our spiritual gifts? Why do you think spiritual gifts that are supposed to be used to edify have caused division among the Body of Christ?

**Read Corinthians 13:1-13:** What did the Apostle Paul say should be the motivation in expressing our spiritual gift? Have you had a negative experience in this area?

**Read Philippians 1:12-18:** The Apostle Paul was in prison yet he remained joyful. How did he remain joyful in spite of imprisonment?

Do you find it hard to remain joyful in difficult situations?

What was one truth that stuck out for you going through

1 Thessalonians? How did it impact your spiritual growth?