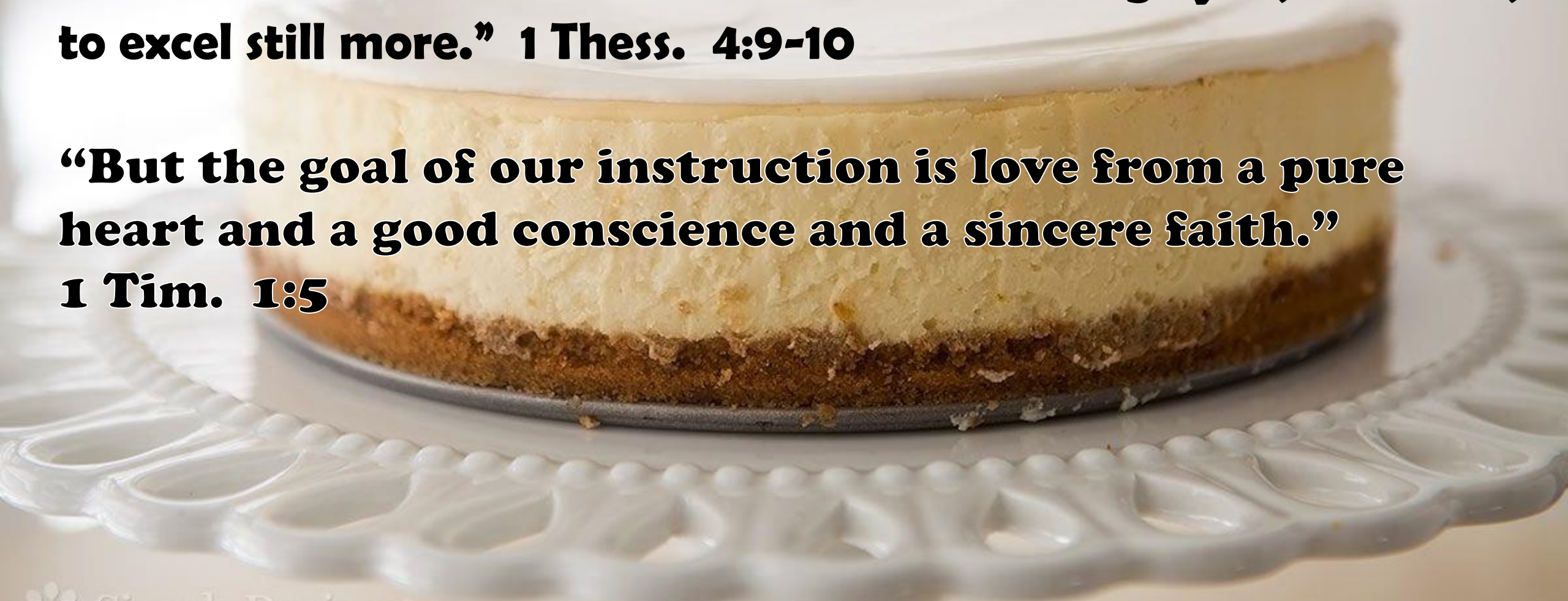


EXCELLING STILL MORE



“Now as to love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more.” 1 Thess. 4:9-10

**“But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”
1 Tim. 1:5**



“But now Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always think kindly of us, longing to see us just as we also long to see you, for this reason, brethren, in all our distress and affliction we were comforted about you through your faith; for now we really live, if you stand firm in the Lord.” 1 Thess. 3:5-8

“So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone.” vs. 19

What attributes made this church a place of such great blessings?

1. SOUGHT UNITY. Vs. 20a

“But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks also...”

2. SERIOUS ABOUT EVANGELISM. Vs. 20b

“...Preaching Jesus to them.”

3. SUPPORTED WITH ENCOURAGEMENT. Vs. 21-24

“And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord. And the news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch.

Vs. 21-22

“Then when he had come and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and began to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord; for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord.” vs. 23-24

4. SPIRITUAL GIFTS VALUED. Vs. 25-26a

“And he left for Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch...”

5. STROVE TO MAKE DISCIPLES. Vs. 26b

“...And it came about that for an entire year they met with the church, and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.”

“Then Peter answered and said to Him, ‘Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?’ And Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name’s sake, shall receive many times as much, and shall inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last; and the last, first.”

Matt. 19:27-30

6. SUPPLIED FOR THE NEEDY. Vs. 27-30

“Now at this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. And one of them named Agabus stood up and began to indicate by the Spirit that there would certainly be a great famine all over the world. And this took place in the reign of Claudius.” vs. 27-28

“And in the proportion that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send a contribution for the relief of the brethren living in Judea. And this they did, sending it in charge of Barnabas and Saul to the elders.”

vs. 29-30

APPLICATION FOR ME:

“...they were first called Christians in Antioch.” vs. 26

“And the hand of the Lord was with them...” vs. 21

“...a good man and full of the Holy Spirit...” vs. 24

EXCELLING STILL MORE

