



1st Epistle of Paul to Thessalonica

1 Thess 3:6-10 - Timothy's Report - Good News from Thessalonica

- *1 Thessalonians 3:6 – But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you:*
 - Timothy apparently had just rejoined Paul in Corinth and the unavailability of teachers was a common problem.
 - *Phil 2:19,20 - But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also **may be encouraged when I know your state**. For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state.*
 - What should we make of Paul's sentiments here?
 - *good tidings* - in the NT used especially of the glad tidings of the coming kingdom of God, and of the salvation to be obtained in it through Christ, and of what relates to this salvation.
 - And here, it relates specifically to their *faith and love*.
 - Can there be *love* without *faith*?



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- *ye have good remembrance of us always* – how important is this today?
 - Here it is reflected *desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you.*
 - Is that the same of us?
- ***1 Thessalonians 3:7 – therefore, brethren, in all our affliction and distress we were comforted concerning you by your faith.***
 - What's it there for (*therefore brethren*)?
 - How the body is there to comfort and encourage one another – whether present or absent!
 - *in all our affliction and distress* – no matter what condition our condition is in.
 - And what *comforted* Paul and Timothy?
 - *we were comforted concerning you by your faith*
 - *2 Corinth 1:3,4 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*



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- And who knew suffering more than Paul?
 - » *2 Tim 3:11- persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me.*
 - » *Col 1:24 - I now rejoice in my **sufferings** for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,*
- McCalley – ‘Paul had mentioned his concern for their faith in 3:2 and 5. Since faith requires a valid and dependable object for its value, the faith spoken of here must refer to the Thessalonian attitude toward Christian **truth.**’ - None But the Hungry Heart, April 10 (Miles Stanford).
 - And the **truth** in the body of believers in Thessalonica is a process Paul and Timothy indicated was hindered by Satan.
 - » *1 Thessalonians 2:18 - Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but **Satan hindered us.***
 - » *1 Thessalonians 3:5 - For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain..*
- *1 Thessalonians 3:8 - For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord.*
 - What does it mean to *stand fast in the Lord*?



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- To persist or persevere, but what's the metric for this?
 - *Gal 5:1 - Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.*
 - *Phil 1:27 - Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,*
 - Notice the conditional nature of this command – *if you stand fast in the Lord* – what happens if we don't?
- *1 Thessalonians 3:9,10 – For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God, night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith?*
 - Why is this a question, what are Paul and Timothy asking here?
 - Paul and Timothy were arduous in their task beyond their own power, fully recognizing that by faith this was the work of God.
 - *For all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God*
 - Let's remind ourselves of the words of the Lord Jesus Christ.



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- *John 15:11 - These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.*
- How should we interpret *praying exceedingly night and day that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith?*
 - *exceedingly night and day?*
 - Why was *seeing their face* so desirous?
 - What does it mean to ***perfect*** *what is lacking in our faith?*
 - to mend (what has been broken or rent), to repair, to complete, to fit out, equip, arrange, adjust, prepare ethically: to strengthen, make one what he ought to be – which is best here or do all have application?
 - » *Jude 3 - Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you **exhorting you to contend earnestly** for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.*
 - » *Eph 4:11-13 - And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the **equipping of the saints** for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;*



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- Gal 6:1 - Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual **restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness**, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.
- Rom 1:11 - For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, **so that you may be established**—
- 2 Corinth 13:9 - For we are glad when we are weak, and you are strong. And this also we pray, that you may be **made complete**.
- 2 Thess 1:11 - Therefore we also pray always for you that our **God would count you worthy of this calling**, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power,



How Is Your Faith?

1 Thess 3:10 ~ ... that we may ... perfect what is lacking in your faith? WV