



Study of: 1 Thessalonians

**THEME: PERSONAL ADVERSITIES,
COMMUNITY IMPACT**

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Chapter 3 Overview:

1 Thessalonians Chapter 3 focuses on Paul's care and concern for the faith of these church members. Paul was concerned about how his adversities were affecting the faith of these believers. Although salvation is personal, walking out of our faith will always be within community. How we handle our personal adversities have communal impact.

Chapter 3 Objectives:

1. In what ways can we encourage/establish the hurting? What does the investment look like?
2. Can you give a personal example of how adversity either shook/settled your faith?
3. How can our handling of adversities affect the faith of others?

Know Their Faith

1 Thessalonians 3:1-2 *"Therefore, when we could no longer endure it, we thought it good to be left in Athens alone, 2 and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith, "*

- a. **"No longer endure it"** - Paul is referring to his concern and desire for the church and its people
- b. **1 Thessalonians 2:17-18** *"17 But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavored more eagerly to see your face with great desire. 18 Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us. "*
 - i. Establish and encourage- Exhorted[encouraged], comforted[console], and establish[strengthen]
- c. **"He did not say - give them an answer"** - You do not have to know the "why" in order to help people through the "what."
 - i. **Romans 12:15 AMP** *"15 Rejoice with those who rejoice [sharing others' joy], and weep with those who weep [sharing others' grief]. "*
 - ii. **Galatians 6:2 AMP** *"Carry one another's burdens and in this way you will fulfill the requirements of the law of Christ [that is, the law of Christian love]"*
- d. **Investment** - We can't meet/serve people in their moment of trial without investment

Q. In what ways can we encourage/establish the hurting for Christ? What does the investment look like?

Attack Against Their Faith

1 Thessalonians 3:3-5 “3 that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this. 4 For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that we would suffer tribulation, just as it happened, and you know. 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.”

- “Shaken” - means to hinder one’s progress through adversity - to the point of being terrified
- Illustration: Is to cut a section out of the road, creating an impassable barrier
 - Paul’s concern was that his afflictions would cause these believers to be “shaken”
 - entrusted - to be assigned responsibility - trusted to be accomplished
- “Appointed to this” - Attacked and afflictions come with the cross
 - **Acts 14:22** “strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”
- Can our faith endure?
 - **Luke 22:31-32** “And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”

Q. Can you give a personal example of how adversity either shook/settled your faith?

Encouraged By Their Faith

1 Thessalonians 3:6-8 “But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always have good remembrance of us, greatly desiring to see us, as we also to see you— 7 therefore, brethren, in all our affliction and distress we were comforted concerning you by your faith. 8 For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord.”

- “Good news” - Timothy returned with a good report of how the church not only handled their adversity, but also how Paul’s adversity affected them
 - **1 Ths 3:5** “5.... tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain.”
- The “tempter” works against us collectively as he works against us individually - because we’re so interconnected in Christ
 - **1 Corinthians 12:12** “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.”
- How we deal with our personal adversities matters!
 - *Vs 7* “7 therefore, brethren, in all our affliction and distress we were comforted concerning you by your faith.”

Q. How can our handling of adversities affect the faith of others?

Bonus Question:

Q. How does the “Tempter” target what is lacking in our faith? (1 Thessalonians 3:9-10)