

1 Thessalonians

Chapter 3

DELIVERED
FROM WRATH

JOY AT HIS
COMING

BLAMELESS IN
HOLINESS

CAUGHT UP
TOGETHER

LIVE TOGETHER
WITH HIM

DAY OF THE
LORD

WEEK THREE:
Concerning Your Faith

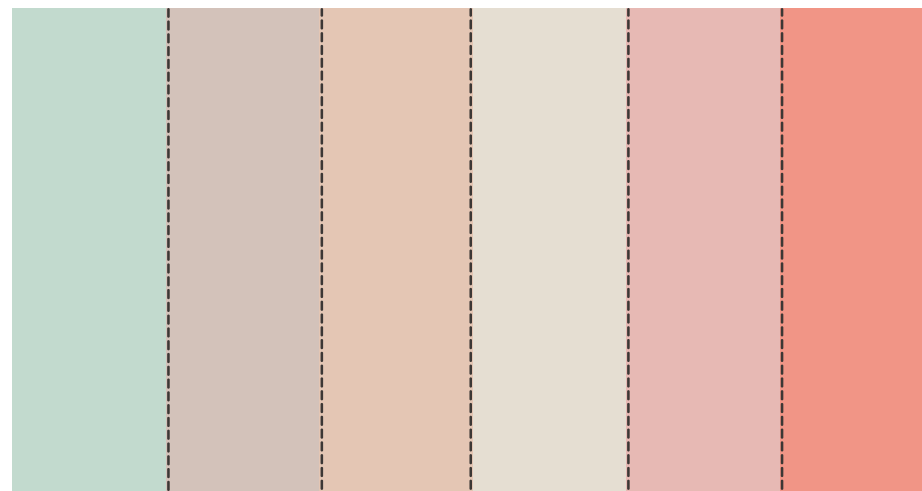
Faith Bigger than Our Circumstances

Read 1 Thessalonians 3



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.”



Review: 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20

“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.

Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us. For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For you are our glory and joy.”

1 Thessalonians 3:1-3

“Therefore, when we could no longer endure it, we thought it good to be left in Athens alone, 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, that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this.”



PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY

Romans 1:16

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”

Review: Acts 17:1-15

Acts 17:13

“But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was preached by Paul at Berea, they came there also and stirred up the crowds.”

*Did the church in Thessalonica
survive these attacks when their
faith was so severely tested?*

Paul was legitimately concerned about their faith as he had only been with them for three weeks.

1 Thessalonians 3:3-5

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

John 16:33

Jesus:

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Context:

The jealousy of the Jews (an attack through Satan himself), attempting to prevent the Gentiles from hearing the saving gospel of Jesus Christ.

But it was all a part of God's plan of redemption for the whole world, both Jews and Gentiles.

Romans 10:10-19

For with the heart one believes unto righteousness,
and with the mouth confession is made unto
salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes
on Him will not be put to shame." For there is no
distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same
Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For
"whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be
saved."

Romans 10:10-19 (CONT.)

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the
gospel of peace,

Who bring glad tidings of good things!"

Romans 10:10-19 (CONT.)

But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed:

"Their sound has gone out to all the earth,
And their words to the ends of the world."

But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says:

"I will provoke you to jealousy by those who are not a nation,
I will move you to anger by a foolish nation."

Deuteronomy 32:21

Good News from
Timothy!

1 Thessalonians 3:6-7

“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— therefore, brethren, in all our affliction and distress we were comforted concerning you by your faith.”

Review: 1 Thessalonians 1:5

“For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.”

At the end of the day, genuine faith is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit that cannot be destroyed by circumstances or affliction.

In fact, *genuine* faith will grow under these circumstances to be *even stronger* than before.

Romans 5:1-5

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

James 1:2-3

“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.”

1 Thessalonians 3:8

“For now we live, if you stand fast
in the Lord.”

Philippians 2:12-13

“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”

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?”

Despite the circumstances, Paul points them to our future hope of Jesus' return to this earth.

Genuine faith will continue to look past the circumstances into the hope of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:18

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

“Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.”

Revelation 19:11-14

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse.

And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

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