



## **“In the Face of Affliction”**

September 27, 2020

**1 Thessalonians 3:6-13**

**Part 6 of “Build to Last”**

V.8, “For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord.”

*“Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.” Phil 1:27*

----- **in the Lord by:**

**1. ----- Your Spiritual Health (v.6-8)**

Assessment vs. Self-Assessment

- a. ----- in knowledge of the Gospel
- b. ----- in Attitude and Actions
- c. ----- in discipleship

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Earnestly (v.7-11)

- a. with \_\_\_\_\_
- b. with \_\_\_\_\_
- c. with \_\_\_\_\_
  - i. For \_\_\_\_\_ (v.10)
  - ii. For \_\_\_\_\_ (v.11)

3. \_\_\_\_\_ a blameless heart (v.11-13)

V.11-13, a beautiful prayer and benediction

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ controlling people and circumstances (v.11)
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ people the way God loves people (v.12)  
  
\_\_\_\_\_ Love
- c. Fight \_\_\_\_\_ in fellowship with others.  
"Holiness"  
1 John 1:5-2:6

**For Family Discussion**

Regarding growing in your knowledge of the faith: What is your family (individually or together) learning about God and the gospel these days? What is one insight you gained from the sermon? Discuss what it looks like to live it out in real life.

## Discussion Questions

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5 and also 3:6-13.

**Dig Deeper:** Grab a good study Bible that has notes, a concordance, or a cross-reference system and study ideas, words, and themes from this passage deeper.

Timothy brought good news of the Thessalonians' spiritual life. They were rich in love (3:6). When people love one another in Christ, what does that look like? And what are the benefits?

Read 3:6-8. What were the ways in which the Thessalonians showed respect as disciples to their disciplinators (ie Paul and Timothy)?

Paul is very open and vulnerable in his prayers...both to God and also before others. What are your thoughts on Paul's prayer life? What can you learn from him, in being vulnerable and transparent before God? What leads us to hide...our hearts and our requests...in our prayer life?

-OR-

If your group is at a strong enough comfort level: Take time right now to pray honestly, openly, and vulnerably with one another. Remember, God is your Abba Father, and longs for you to reach out to Him in prayer.

Where have you seen God at work these days? Share a little, and then spend some time giving thanks to the Lord.

V.11. Why is stopping controlling people and situations critical for keeping a blameless heart?

V.12 What is the connection between love and bearing witness to Jesus in the world?

**This Week:** Schedule a time to meet in smaller groups of 2-3: Generally and ideally, men would meet with men and women with women, because it fosters openness and trust. Read the 1 John passage (1:5-2:6) together. Take turns for about 10 minutes bringing a sin or a struggle into the light. Listen and Encourage one another.

### **Closing Prayer**

*Heavenly Father, thank you that you are near to us, that you hear us, and that you are powerful and much greater than any affliction that lies before us. We renew our faith in Jesus Christ right now. Holy Spirit, help us love like Jesus. We bring our needs and requests before you now. Give us the strength to battle sin, Satan, and the lies of the world. Establish our hearts blameless in holiness before you, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints, Amen.*