

The Unstoppable Joy of Ministry

1 Thess. 3:9 "How can we thank God for you in return for all the joy we experience before our God because of you."

Text: 1 Thessalonians 3

South Orlando Baptist Church

Topics: Mentoring, Hardship, Joy

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Series: Unstoppable

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To Experience the Unstoppable Joy of Ministry...

- 1) **Concern yourself with the spiritual _____ of others (1-5)**
 - a. Paul had been ripped away from the Thessalonian believers after only being with them a short amount of time (Approximately 3 Weeks). His absence from them reached a point where he could "no longer stand it."
 - b. Paul dispatched Timothy to find out about their faith. Paul's primary concern was for their spiritual health.
 - c. As followers of Christ, one of our primary concerns must be the spiritual health and growth of others. Our children, our neighbors, and our co-workers.

- 2) **Counter the _____ of life through the spiritual growth of others (6-8)**
 - a. The report of the faith of the Thessalonians brought Paul great encouragement as he was facing "distress and persecution."
 - b. Discipling other people will help us to endure times of great distress and persecution.

- 3) **Celebrate the joy of seeing people grow in Christ _____ (9-13)**
 - a. This encouragement brought great joy to Paul.
 - b. We will experience great heights of joy and encouragement as we help others to grow in Jesus.

The 7 Levels of Discipleship:

- Level 7 - _____ Christ as Savior and Lord
- Level 6 - Close proximity to _____
- Level 5 - Church attendance _____
- Level 4 - Church membership and _____ group attendance.
- Level 3 - Active Involvement in _____
- Level 2 - Active involvement with a _____
- Level 1 - Active involvement _____ a mentor

Questions for Application

- 1) Whom did the apostles send to Thessalonica to check up on the church?
(3:2)
- 2) What was Timothy's mission? (3:2)
- 3) What did Paul say about trials? (3:3)
- 4) What concern did Paul have for the Thessalonian church? (3:3-5)
- 5) What did Paul think might undercut the faith of the new believers at Thessalonica? (3:3-5)
- 6) Why did Paul send someone to check on the Thessalonians? (3:5)
- 7) What news did Timothy bring to Paul from Thessalonica? (3:6-7)
- 8) How had Paul's work among the Thessalonians fared during his absence?
(3:6-7)
- 9) How were the Thessalonians an encouragement to Paul? (3:7-9)
- 10) Why did Paul say, "for now we really live"? (3:8)
- 11) For what did Paul pray concerning the Thessalonians? (3:10)
- 12) How did Paul pray? (3:10)
- 13) When did Paul pray? For whom? (3:10)
- 14) What was Paul hoping for? (3:11)
- 15) What did Paul ask the Lord to do? (3:11-13)
- 16) What did Paul pray would grow and prosper among the Thessalonians?
(3:11-13)
- 17) How should we prepare for Christ's return to earth? (3:13)
- 18) What practical things can we do to strengthen and encourage others in their faith?
- 19) How can opposition discourage and damage the faith of a young believer?
- 20) How could you help a young believer whose faith has been damaged by opposition or discouragement?
- 21) How would you define and evaluate the depth of a person's faith?
- 22) How would you define and evaluate the depth of a person's love?
- 23) How do you show your concern for Christians in distant places?
- 24) What are the characteristics of someone who is standing firm in the Lord?
- 25) In what ways should we imitate Paul's example when assigning credit for bringing someone to Christ?
- 26) What place did the Thessalonians have in Paul's prayer life?
- 27) How does a person's love for others increase?
- 28) How can a person have his or her heart strengthened?
- 29) What preparations can you make this week to get ready for Christ's return?
- 30) What changes do you need to make to focus your prayer on others?
- 31) What younger believer can you help get established in the faith? How?