

NOVEMBER 22, 2021

1 Thessalonians 3

Staying Strong In The Lord

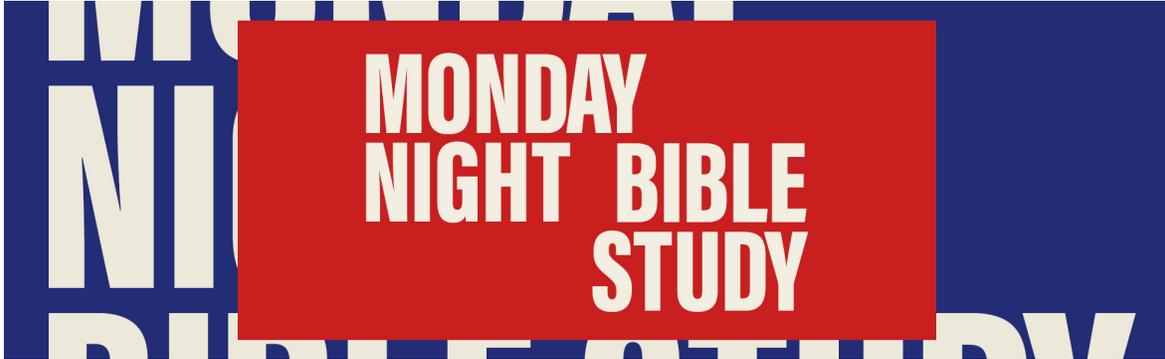
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PAUL'S 2 MAIN CONCERNS FOR BELIEVERS:

1. Paul was concerned that the believers would not be UNSETTLED by the trials that he was facing and they were facing.
 - As believers, we must know that we will face trails and persecution for knowing the Lord.
 - We must stand strong in the midst of persecution and opposition. *II Timothy 3:12; Romans 8:37*
2. Paul was concerned that the believers in Thessalonica would have been tempted by Satan to turn back to their old way of life.
 - When trouble comes, we often react by doubting that we are in the will of God.
 - Satan's strategy is to make us turn on God, who is NOT the source of our trouble.
 - We must surround ourselves with the right people and stay in church.
 - God has a plan and purpose for you, but be assured that Satan will come to steal, kill, and destroy you.

PAUL'S 3 PRAYERS FOR THE BELIEVERS:

1. Paul prayed that he would see the Thessalonians again and SUPPLY what was LACKING in their faith.
 - God gave the Body of Christ 5 Ministry Gifts when He gave us pastors, apostles, prophets, teachers, and evangelists. *Ephesians 4:11-12*
 - Their purpose is to equip believers to follow Jesus and to serve Jesus in some capacity.
 - Every believer needs to be disciplined and to be a continual student of God's Word.



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- To grow in faith, we must grow in the knowledge of God and His Word. *Hosea 4:6*
2. Paul prayed that their love would increase and overflow for each other and everyone else.
- God wants us to be rooted and grounded in love. *Ephesians 3:17-19*
 - We must be sure of and established in the TRUTH that God loves us.
 - Let go of trying to be GOOD ENOUGH and let God's love be ENOUGH for you. *Romans 8:37-39*

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

- This passage shows us Paul's definition of the God-kind of love.
 - It shows us what it means to grow in love and how to love others.
3. Paul prayed that the believer's hearts would be strengthened.
- This is our reminder to live a holy life, knowing that Jesus is coming again.
 - We are to fix our hope on the return of Jesus.

When we are weak, God will make us strong, and He will sustain us when we feel we cannot make it. *II Corinthians 12:9-11*