

Evidence of a Healthy Church: Established in Their Faith (1Thess3:1-5)

1. A Healthy Church is Established in Their Faith

- A. _____ for their faith in Christ and God's Word (**3:1-2,5-7**)
1. "Your faith" the personal faith of the Thessalonian church in Christ and God's Word (the faith)
 2. Concerned that Satan had tempted them and
- B. Not _____ but established (**vs.1-2,5**)
1. Not shaken by the enemy – the Tempter tempts us thru lies, distractions and afflictions(**vs.3**)
 - a. Adam and Eve (**Gen3:1-5**; has God said? You will be like God?)
 - b. disturbed, lured away by affliction...destined for affliction (**Matt10:16-24; Phil1:29**)
 2. Established means – to be brought to maturity in Christ by knowing the truth and living it out
 - a. strengthened – to support or buttress to make strong so it won't fail – in knowing truth; the doctrines of Scripture; who God is, what He demands = **know** what Bible says!
 - b. encouraged – to come alongside and motivate – to live out = **DO** what Bible says!
 - c. Example – **Ephesians4:11-16**
 3. Paul seeks to counteract Satan's tactics and temptations by sending Timothy to do this
*Satan: **2Cor11:3-4,13-15** and Paul's command: **2Tim3:13-17; 2Tim4:1-5; Eph6:10-12**
- C. Established in _____ with Christ (**understood in text; Ps16:5-6,8-9,11 – how???**)
1. Knowledge of Christ (**Eph4:13**) – Gk. word means knowledge of a particular point
*theology – this will determine how you live... Ex. One God, worship Him only
 2. Knowing Christ (a personal relationship w/ Christ) *Phil3:8; Gk. word experiential knowledge
*My salvation/deliverer – Daniel in lions' den ... *experience based in truth* – Daniel would only pray to the One true God!
 3. This is HOW we walk with Christ – obey Him, follow Him – **John14:21; 15:10; Acts4:1-13**

2. A Healthy Church Grows in Affliction

- A. The Thessalonian church had grown _____ through affliction (3:1-2,5; 1:3,6-9; 2:13-16; 3:6; 4:9-10)
1. This happened though Paul and Timothy had left, because they obeyed God's Word; **2:13**
 2. Parable 4 soils, Mk4; affliction causes stony ground heart to fall away; but good soil heart to grow strong; **Ps1:1-6** – *the drought of affliction causes roots to go deep into soil!*
- B. SO, how do we do this in our day to day lives?
- *Key 1: the _____ church! ***Acts2:42-47; Heb3:12,13; 10:23-25**
- *Key 2: _____ seeking God in His Word and prayer; **Jer29:12-13; 33:3**
- *Key3: _____ what you know God has said!!! (the Thessalonians only had Paul a short time)

***What are the things you already know God wants you to do?**

P _____ in thoughts and words; T _____ the truth; being C _____ to local church, being here; G _____ of your resources and spiritual gifts; S _____ your faith; L _____ and F _____ one another; P _____; growing in K _____ your Bible and O _____ what it says