



QUESTION 1

Read 1 Thess. 2:19-20. Does it encourage you to see others doing well, getting ahead, succeeding in their lives, careers, and families? Why do we often not share in the success of others?

QUESTION 2

Read 1 Thess. 3:11-13. When you pray for other people, do you tend to pray about their circumstances or do you tend to pray about their character? Do you pray about God's will in their lives? What do you pray for?

QUESTION 3

Read Isaiah 40: 28-31. What do these verses promise? How would you define, "trust in the Lord?" How does our trust inspire others to trust, and conversely, how does our doubt cause others to doubt?

QUESTION 4

Are there any ways that we could inspire others to grow closer to God? What kind of practical, every day things would help others to be inspired?

GOING DEEPER

The reason for this renewal was *since you are standing firm in the Lord*. The verb means "to be constant and stable," whether in the faith (1 Cor. 16:13), in the community of faith (Phil. 1:27), in the doctrine received (2 Thess. 2:15), or, as here, *in the Lord* (Phil. 4:1). They maintained their solidarity with the Lord despite the persecutions (2:14) and in the face of Satanic attacks, which were designed to separate them from their faith in the Lord (3:5). In the opening thanksgiving of the letter (see 1:3), the "endurance produced by hope" that characterized the Thessalonian believers is underscored. This constancy in the midst of trial was the true fruit of hope, and we may suppose that the same idea underlies v. 8. In v. 6 Timothy brought the report of their "faith and love," and now we see the fruit, hope, completing the trilogy of Christian virtues.

Prayer Requests
