



## SERMON SERIES: THESSALONIANS – WEEK 3

**Message Title:** Fill the Gap

**Main Texts:** 1 Thessalonians 2:13–3:12; Daniel 4:35; 1 Peter 2:9

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### ◆ INTRODUCTION

Paul's second chapter closes with a shift in tone—moving from thanksgiving to addressing persecution and opposition. The Thessalonians received the Word of God with faith, but immediately faced resistance. Paul reminds them (and us) that the Gospel cannot be stopped, and that God calls us to stand firm, encourage one another, and fill the gaps in each other's faith.

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### MESSAGE OUTLINE

#### 1. Receiving the Word and Facing Opposition (2:13–16)

- The Thessalonians accepted the message as God's Word, not human opinion.
- They suffered persecution like the believers in Judea.

- Passion without truth is dangerous—Paul knew this from experience.
  - 1 Peter 2:9 – God has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.
  - Even when loved ones resist, God’s Word remains powerful.
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## **2. Testimonies of God at Work**

- Bold faith from students—sharing Christ even with those who seemed hostile.
  - Spirit-led encounters—God directing conversations and opening hearts.
  - Reminder: God is always at work, even in opposition.
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## **3. Opposition Cannot Stop God’s Purposes (2:17–20)**

- Paul longed to return but was hindered by Satan (*enkopto* = to block the road).
  - Satan can delay or detour, but cannot override God’s sovereign plan.
  - Daniel 4:35 – God does as He pleases; no one can stop Him.
  - The Thessalonians were Paul’s joy, hope, and crown.
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## **4. Encouragement Through Perseverance (3:1–8)**

- Paul sent Timothy to strengthen and encourage the church.
- Paul was left “alone,” but was lifted by their steadfast faith.

- Standing firm in the Lord strengthens others as well.
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## **5. Tested Greatly, Trusted Greatly**

- Louie Giglio: *“If you want something to be great for God, get ready to be tested greatly first.”*
  - Application:
    - Standing firm in finances.
    - Young people stepping up like Timothy.
    - Praying with extraordinary faith.
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## **6. Filling the Gap (3:9–12)**

- Paul prayed that God would “fill the gaps” in their faith.
  - Our call: pray to fill the gap in our ministries and communities.
    - Hispanic ministry.
    - Young adult ministry.
    - Personal discipleship.
  - When God’s love overflows, His power is revealed.
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## **7. God’s Love Overflowing in Action**

- Testimony from Vietnam: a woman raised from the dead → a new church planted.

- God’s miraculous power brings transformation and multiplication.
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## **FINAL TAKEAWAY**

- God’s Word is powerful—even in persecution.
  - The enemy may hinder, but cannot stop God’s plan.
  - Our call:
    - Stand firm in faith
    - Pray to fill the gaps
    - Let God’s love overflow
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## **REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

1. How have you experienced God’s Word strengthening you in difficulty?
2. What “gaps” in your faith might God want to fill right now?
3. How can your love overflow to others in practical, Spirit-led ways this week?