



## Encouraging Other Believers

### Standing Firm – Part 3

#### 1 Thessalonians 2:7-16

The Bible seems to indicate that the closer we get to the end of the world, the more difficult it's going to be for the Christian. As we enter these difficult times it is imperative that Christian people learn to encourage and support one another. But how can we effectively encourage each other in the Christian life? The Thessalonians were facing some pretty intense opposition from the enemies of Christ in the first century, and they were very much in the minority. But in this passage, we see several characteristics that made Paul an effective encourager to those early Christians—the very same characteristics that will help us to boost one another up.

#### I. \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 7-8)

- A. Paul genuinely \_\_\_\_\_ about these people.
- B. A good encourager cares so much for other people that it's \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. One reason God allows us to go through difficulty is that it makes us more \_\_\_\_\_ and understanding to other people who go through that same difficulty. (2 Cor. 1:4)

#### II. \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 9)

- A. Paul was \_\_\_\_\_ to the needs of the Thessalonians.
- B. A good encourager is someone who is perceptive about the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of other people.
- C. Much of perception comes from being sensitive to the prompting of the \_\_\_\_\_.

#### III. \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 10)

- A. Paul encouraged them to live lives worthy of God, but he inspired them by \_\_\_\_\_ that kind of life in their \_\_\_\_\_.

- B. When we see other people being \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord, it is a great source of encouragement.

#### IV. \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 11-12)

- A. A father has to deal with his children \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. We have a responsibility to keep on \_\_\_\_\_, keep on \_\_\_\_\_ others, and to keep on \_\_\_\_\_.

#### V. \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 13-16)

- A. An effective encourager finds the time to \_\_\_\_\_ out a person who has done something well and then \_\_\_\_\_ encouragement.
- B. There are several guidelines for expressing encouragement that are helpful to us:
  - 1. Be \_\_\_\_\_ instead of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2. Be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3. Be \_\_\_\_\_ in your encouragement.
  - 4. Be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 5. \_\_\_\_\_ it down.
  - 6. Do it \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. Not only did Paul encourage the Thessalonians, but they \_\_\_\_\_ it well.
  - 1. They soaked up the Word by \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 13)
  - 2. They were not too \_\_\_\_\_ to have \_\_\_\_\_ models. (v. 14)
  - 3. They \_\_\_\_\_ persecution. (vv. 14-16)
- D. If you receive encouragement well, you \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.