



Triumphing Over Trials
Standing Firm – Part 5
1 Thessalonians 3:1-8

How well do you handle the difficulties that come your way in life? Do you accept them as faith-builders from the Lord, or do you grumble and complain with every ounce of your breath? Is your faith in times of trial and tribulation a source of encouragement to others, or does your lack of faith do damage to your testimony as a Christian? In this message we want to discuss how a positive response to difficulty is a source of encouragement to other Christians. Paul experienced that in his dealings with the Thessalonians. Let's see three factors that enabled them to triumph over their severe trials and become a source of inspiration to Paul.

I. A personal visit from _____, who _____ about them.

- A. When someone is really hurting, they don't need scripture read to them from a _____, they need the familiar shoulder of a _____. (vv. 1-2)
- B. When a church gets _____, it has to get _____ at the same time.

II. Accurate _____ about what _____ had in store for them.

- A. Paul warned the Thessalonians that _____ were inevitable. (vv. 2-3)
- B. These trials originate from the _____. (v. 5)
- C. Satan doesn't _____ easily. (1 Pet. 5:8-9)
- D. Paul informed them that the purpose of Satan's attacks was to _____ them. (v. 3)
- E. Our enthusiasm for Christ needs to be tempered with _____. (Matt. 8:18-20)
- F. Being a Christian does not exempt you from _____. (1 Pet. 4:12-14)

III. The _____ response of one who was _____ by them.

- A. When you experience a trial, God puts a _____ on you. (vv. 6-8)
- B. You can respond to trials in one of four ways:
 - 1. You can respond _____.
 - 2. You can respond _____.
 - 3. You can respond _____.
 - 4. As Christians, when we face trials, we are to deal with them _____. (Job 13:15; Rev. 2:10)
- C. When a Christian remains faithful, it is an _____ to other Christians.
- D. Any time you think life is _____, just look at the _____.