



**IMPACT COMMUNITIES**  
real life. real impact.

**Sequoia Impact Communities are a place to  
experience real life & real impact.**

To get plugged in email:

**impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org**

**Standing Strong in the Storm (#4 of 8)  
May 15, 2016**

1. Take some time to share about how God has been working in and through you this past week using the B.L.E.S.S. habits questions.
  - How has the Gospel been a **Blessing** to you this week?
  - What are you hearing from God as you **Listen** to the Spirit & read God's Word, the Bible?
  - Who have you had an opportunity to **Eat** with this week to build relationship?
  - Who has God led you to **Serve** this week?
  - In what ways have you been able to **Share** about Jesus this week?
2. What did you find significant about the message? Was there anything in the message that spoke to you personally?
3. Read 1 Thess. 3:1-13. What are some keys to standing firm? Why does Paul pray what he does in 11-13 and how is this connected to the Good News and God's love for us?
4. Read John 16:33 and Romans 8:28. What do these verses tell us about difficulties? What does God promise? How does this encourage you today?
5. Read Psalm 62. What does David tell us about standing strong in the storms of life. What comfort do we find in v. 11-12a. What does God promise and what is our responsibility?
6. Read James 1:2-4. What does James tell us about trials and difficulties?
7. Share an example of how God has helped you stand firm in the midst of a storm or share about a current storm you are working through. Pray for one another and stand on God's promises in John 16:33 and Romans 8:28.



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## SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

### Standing Strong in the Storm

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor

May 15, 2016



<sup>1</sup> Thessalonians 3:1-13 Finally, when we could stand it no longer, we decided to stay alone in Athens, <sup>2</sup> and we sent Timothy to visit you. He is our brother and God's co-worker in proclaiming the Good News of Christ. We sent him to strengthen you, to encourage you in your faith, <sup>3</sup> and to keep you from being shaken by the troubles you were going through. But you know that we are destined for such troubles. <sup>4</sup> Even while we were with you, we warned you that troubles would soon come—and they did, as you well know. <sup>5</sup> That is why, when I could bear it no longer, I sent Timothy to find out whether your faith was still strong. I was afraid that the tempter had gotten the best of you and that our work had been useless.

<sup>6</sup> But now Timothy has just returned, bringing us good news about your faith and love. He reports that you always remember our visit with joy and that you want to see us as much as we want to see you. <sup>7</sup> So we have been greatly encouraged in the midst of our troubles and suffering, dear brothers and sisters, because you have remained strong in your faith. <sup>8</sup> It gives us new life to know that you are standing firm in the Lord. <sup>9</sup> How we thank God for you! Because of you we have great joy as we enter God's presence. <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray earnestly for you, asking God to let us see you again to fill the gaps in your faith.

<sup>11</sup> May God our Father and our Lord Jesus bring us to you very soon. <sup>12</sup> And may the Lord make your love for one another & for all people grow and overflow, just as our love for you overflows. <sup>13</sup> May he, as a result, make your hearts strong, blameless, & holy as you stand before God our Father when our Lord Jesus comes again with all his holy people. Amen

Romans 8:28

John 16:33

**Big Idea: Leaning into God's love strengthens us in the storm.**

Psalms 62:1 "I wait quietly before God, for my victory comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will never be shaken."

**What are you leaning on more than Jesus for strength in the storm?**

**A Prayer of Commitment:** *Lord, I praise you for your all-sufficiency - that you are enough for my heart, my life, & my joy. Forgive me for not praising and treasuring you and your salvation enough. Thank you for grace and forgiveness, life and strength, found in Christ. I look to you for life Jesus. Help me to rest in your love. Amen*

*The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today's 10:10 service are from the New Living Translation(NLT).*