

**Who Is Fretting about Your Faith?**  
**Dr. Michael A. Cox**  
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**Text:** 1 Thessalonians 3:6-10

**1 Thessalonians:** [Bibliography](#) or [Manuscripts and Greek Exegesis](#)

**UBS 4<sup>th</sup> Edition Paragraph Topic:** Fullness of Life in Christ

**Central Idea of Message:** Good news about the steadfast faith of others refreshes troubled hearts.

**Introduction:** After being sent by Paul to Thessalonica, Timothy reported back to Paul with excellent news about the state of the Christians in Thessalonica. The encouraging news was music to Paul's ears.

**I. Timothy's Report of Good News from Thessalonica (vv. 6-8)**

- A. Timothy returned to Paul with good news from Thessalonica (v. 6)
  - 1. Regarding their faith
  - 2. Regarding their love: faith always shows itself to others through words and acts of kindness
  - 3. Regarding their longing to see Paul: they were not avoiding the preacher
- B. Timothy's report comforted Paul greatly (v. 7)
  - 1. In the midst of distress and affliction
    - a) **Distress and affliction were common to Paul and are common to all believers**
      - (1) Distress: overbearing tribulation
      - (2) Affliction: choking pressures
    - b) **It cannot be said that Paul was always happy with life, but it can be said that Paul was happy in life**
    - c) Paul's life was never easy
    - d) The physical burdens and beatings certainly wore Paul down, but the spiritual burdens were nearly overwhelming
    - e) **Many people may not realize that spiritual distress is vexing them more than physical affliction**

- f) **The Christian life is never easy, but it is, in the end, much easier than the non-Christian life!**
- 2. Comforted by their faith
  - a) Concern over the faith of another can create great anxiety
  - b) Someone is probably fretting over your faith, or the lack thereof
  - c) Your faith can bring great comfort to someone: make it so they can stop fretting about you
    - (1) In-laws
    - (2) Siblings
    - (3) Friends
- C. Timothy's report of their faith refreshed Paul (v. 8)
  - 1. One can almost see Paul dancing a jig
  - 2. Good news does refresh us
  - 3. Now Paul could relax and really live
  - 4. Your firmness of faith refreshes someone who has been praying for you

## II. **Paul's Joy Regarding Their Firmness of Faith (vv. 9-10)**

- A. Paul's joy over their firmness of faith in Thessalonica was priceless (v. 9)
  - 1. Thanks to God would be unsatisfactory
  - 2. Mere thanks to God was inadequate for Paul's joy over their firmness of faith
- B. Paul longed to see the faces of his Thessalonian converts (v. 10)
  - 1. Praying fervently that he might be able to see them: night and day
  - 2. Praying fervently that he might be able to complete what is lacking in their faith
    - a) The faith of all new believers needs to grow
    - b) The faith of all new believers needs to be strengthened and encouraged
    - c) Faith is adequate to save, but still needs to be completed
      - (1) Deficiencies abound
      - (2) Identify them and strengthen them
      - (3) **We all need to be taught, warned, and instructed in the faith**
      - (4) **Faith ought to be developing as long as we live**
      - (5) In this context perfect and complete mean fit for full and proper use

**Conclusion: Is somebody fretting about your faith, or the lack thereof? Give them refreshing rest today.** Hymn #332, "My Heart Looks in Faith."