



\*Do you know how faith, love, and hope work?

\*Have you had a radical change in your allegiance?

\*Statistically those looking for Jesus' return & the rapture live what kind of life?  
Answer: A purified life, a surrendered life, and a holy life.

\*Winning the battles of our faith.

*\*1 Thessalonians 3:1 (NKJV) Therefore, when we could no longer endure it, we thought it good to be left in Athens alone, 2 and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith, 3 that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this. 4 For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that we would suffer tribulation, just as it happened, and you know. 5 For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain.*

1. **V:1-2 We are connected in the faith.** Paul was in Athens the intellectual capital of the world. Timothy is the mentor to this young church.

**Establishing the faith.** Many Christians lose battles, not because they are bad but because they have been ill-equipped to know how our faith works and what we can expect as people of faith.

**The word Establish** is going to be used again in this portion of Paul's letter. Notice that is attached to the goal of encouraging them in the faith.

2. **V:3-4 The things that shake our faith.**

**You are normal if difficulties, sickness, and disease shake your faith.**

**They only shake it they won't destroy your faith** because faith and hope are not rooted in this world.

3. **V:5 The tempter and temptation are the real enemies.**

**Because the tempter lies** about what is going on in your body, faith, and even your soul.

\*A message that is focused on the Kingdom of God and relationships.

*\*1 Thessalonians 3:6 But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always have good remembrance of us, greatly desiring to see us, as we also to see you— 7 therefore, brethren, in all our affliction and distress we were comforted concerning you by your faith. 8 For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord. 9 For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God, 10 night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith?*

1. **V:6-8 Your testimony sustains others.** Especially when it shows the transformation. **Your testimony is a source of strength** for some very strong leaders that need to hear them.

2. **V:9-10 A Radical love** and the source of joy is in testimonies. It honors God the most when it reveals His power.  
**It's a love that honors the faith journey** to the point of losing sleep for someone else.

**\*The Lord directs and establishes our lives.**

*1 Thessalonians 3:11* Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you.  
*12* And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, *13* so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

1. **V:11 The God who directs.** God directs the best when everyone else says this is the only direction that makes sense.  
**The direction comes from God.** A Pastor, teacher, friend, or parent can pray for you. Point you to scriptures to read but you must be in an intimate relationship with God that He gives you the directions.

2. **V:12 The source of our increase is Lord.** If you think your source is anything else other than God then what do you do when it dries up.  
**Increase love that flourishes** is the descriptive word that reveals our level of health within the body of Christ.

3. **V:13 what is our hope?** I believe it's a heart that is now anchored in holiness.  
**An established heart that keeps each room of your life open** to Jesus. Regular cleaning of each room. Dr. Chick Shaver, the living room, the dining room, the bedrooms, and the closet.

**To establish** is to make firm, strengthen, or solid.