

## Receiving Encouragement > 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

**3:6-7** *A comforting update.* Timothy's words about the Thessalonians don't just check off a "to do" box for Paul, instead they bring him genuine comfort and encouragement.

**3:8-10** *A joy-filled response.* Paul's reaction isn't simply to move on to the next thing. Instead, he dwells with joy upon the work that the Lord has and is doing.

**3:11-13** *A thankful prayer.* How ought we to respond to the Lord's amazing work? Paul's example is to go to Him in a prayer of thanksgiving: a prayer that asks the Lord for what is desired, trusts Him for whatever the future holds, and calls upon Him to keep doing His good and faithful work.

**Background:** Paul has been recounting to the Thessalonians about how he had desired to visit them personally, but wasn't able to. Now, Timothy has returned after visiting them and Paul writes of how encouraged he was to hear about them.

**The Point:** Paul hearing about the Thessalonians brought him great joy, just as it encouraged them of his care. This sort of encouragement is what every Christian needs to grow in holiness and to follow the Lord as we serve one another.

**Head:** Encouragement matters, not just as a duty to others, but because you need it yourself.

**Heart:** Believe that the Lord is at work and that seeing and hearing of His goodness will build us up in the faith.

**Hands:** How will you seek to be an encourager of others this week? How will you dwell on God's good work around you?

**Here is how I will apply these truths:** \_\_\_\_\_

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