

“WHILE WE WAIT”
(Living in Light of The Lord's Return)
Studies in 2 Thessalonians

Getting back to normal after a traumatic experience isn't easy for most people. It's amazing to watch Olympic gymnasts regain their composure and finish their routine after a big blunder in their performance. It may be even more important to finish well after a letdown than during a successful performance. Coaches know that it is damaging to end with thoughts of failure and embarrassment on one's mind; leaving the exercise that way may debilitate the athlete in all future attempts.

Spiritually, too, it's important to resume focus and discipline following upsets to your walk with the Lord. The young Thessalonian Christians had their faith rocked by all the persecution they were encountering. They began to question their prophetic understanding and perhaps even their own faith--Were they in the Tribulation Period? Why had they been left behind? Is it possible they weren't even saved and suffering this persecution for nothing?!

Paul, the apostle who had led them to the Lord and established them in a new, good church and wrote two letters to them to console them, encourage them, and help them get back on track in their normal, daily walk with the Lord. Since the rapture had not yet happened, they were not in the Tribulation and their suffering was simply spiritual 'growing pains' experienced by all true Christians anywhere, anytime. Now, they just needed to calm down, replace their fears with faith and keep themselves ready for the coming 'rapture' which would evacuate all believers at the end of the Church Age.

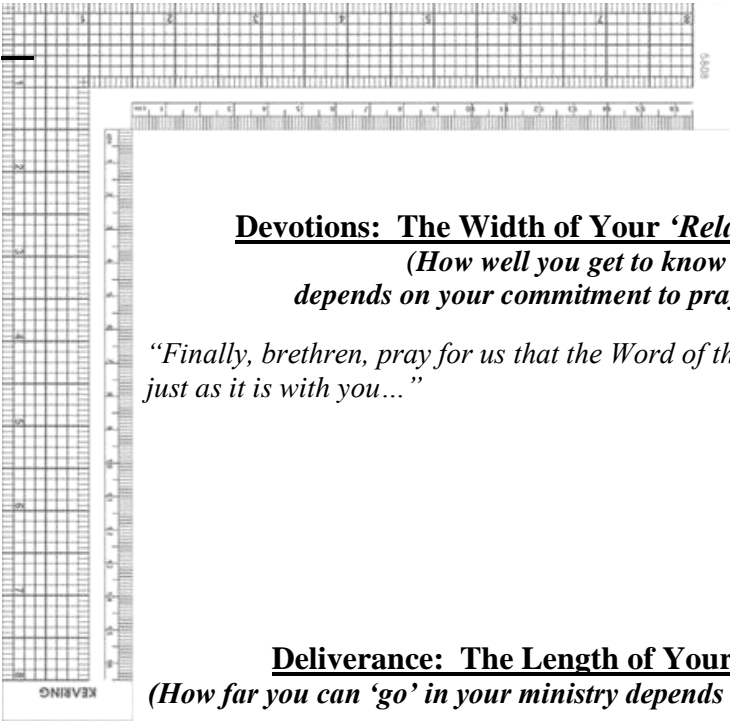
2 Thessalonians 3 calms down the environment within the church family so the storms from without are all they need to cope with. Whenever something or someone 'rocks your boat', it's important to return to a normal Christian life as soon as possible. If you have family or friends whose world has been rocked, your ministry is to help calm them down and get back to a biblical routine of life ASAP.



4-Dimensional Christian Living
(The width, length, depth & height of Christ)
2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

“For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from Whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height – to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God...”

Ephesians 3:14-21



Devotions: The Width of Your ‘Relationship’ With HIM

(How well you get to know the Lord depends on your commitment to prayer & Bible study)

“Finally, brethren, pray for us that the Word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you...” (3:1)

Deliverance: The Length of Your ‘Walk’ With HIM

(How far you can ‘go’ in your ministry depends on separation from bad people)

“...and (pray) that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith. (3:2)

Discipline: The Depth of Your ‘Love’ For HIM

(How much you fall in love with God depends on your faithfulness)

“But the Lord is faithful, Who will establish you and guard you from the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you.” (3:3-4)

Direction: The Height of Your ‘Faith’ in HIM

(How high you rise above the world depends on your heart’s gravitation)

“Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ” (3:5)

