

1 THESSALONIANS

LIVING READY FOR THE LORD



SERMON SERIES: Living Ready for the Lord

SERMON TITLE: The Connection between Affliction, Temptation & Faith

KEY TEXT (NKJV): 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:1-13 NKJV

OTHER TEXTS (NKJV, NIV): 2 Corinthians 4:4, James 1:12, 2 Timothy 3:12, Romans 8:35, Job 13:15, John 16:33, 1 Peter 4:15-16, Luke 22:31-32.

BIG IDEA: Living ready for the Lord begins with understanding that we are loved and chosen by God through His grace, not by our performance. From this foundation, our lives are shaped into a response, expressed through a work of faith that actively trusts and obeys God, a labour of love that serves Him and others sincerely, and a steadfast hope in Jesus Christ that remains firm even in the face of pressure or persecution. As we fix our eyes on Christ's return, we are called to move beyond empty rituals or outward appearances and instead cultivate a genuine relationship with God that transforms how we live daily, faithfully, lovingly, and expectantly.

In this third sermon of the series, Pastor Alice teaches us about the connection between affliction, temptation, and faith. She encourages us to remain spiritually established, steadfast, and faithful to God during trials and persecution.

1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:1-13 NKJV

But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavoured more eagerly to see your face with great desire. Therefore, we wanted to come to you even I, Paul, time and again, but Satan hindered us. For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For you are our glory and joy.

1 Thessalonians 3:1-13 NKJV

Therefore, when we could no longer endure it, we thought it good to be left in Athens alone, and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow labourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith, that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this. For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that we would suffer tribulation, just as it happened, and you know. 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 labour might be in vain. 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, therefore, brethren, in all our affliction and distress, we were comforted concerning you by your faith. For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord. For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God, night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith? Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, 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.

God Bless You!

The Connection Groups Office

1 THESSALONIANS

LIVING READY FOR THE LORD



Leader Heads-Up: Do a quick check-in with those present and **not**, and allocate some time to the prayer points below.

A. Start Talking:

What is one personal value you would never compromise on, and why is it so important to you?

B. Start Thinking

1. How have afflictions or difficult seasons revealed the strength or weakness of your faith, and what practical steps will you take to remain spiritually established instead of being shaken? Read **1 Thessalonians 3:3 NKJV**.
2. In what areas of your life are you tempted to compromise your faith to avoid discomfort, rejection, or suffering, and how will you choose obedience to Christ instead? Read **2 Timothy 3:12 NKJV**.
3. Which area of your life do you currently need support in? How will you intentionally support and encourage the faith of someone in your Connection Group or community who may be going through affliction or a difficult season? Read **1 Thessalonians 3:2 NKJV**.

C. Start Doing

1. **Remain** steadfast in faith, trusting that God will use every situation to strengthen, mature, and establish you through endurance.
2. **Guard** against compromising your faith for temporary comfort, approval, or relief, choosing obedience to Christ even when it comes with difficulty.
3. **Stand** firm in your faith, intentionally encourage and strengthen others during seasons of trial and spiritual pressure.
4. **Live** ready for the Lord in an established faith that remains steadfast through hardship, temptation, and persecution, trusting God regardless of circumstances.

A. Start Praying (Pray as a group during the meeting)

1. Corporate Church Prayer:

Pray that we will encourage and strengthen each other in the faith daily (1 Thessalonians 3:2 NKJV)

Help us spread the word! Share this link with MLFC members in your network who have not yet joined a group: <https://miraclelifefamily.churchcenter.com/groups>.

Members, please ensure your CG leader takes your attendance before the end of the meeting.

Leader Report Reminder: <https://miraclelifefamily.churchcenter.com/people/forms/604025>

School For Life: Sign up via <https://miraclelifefamily.churchcenter.com/registrations>