

A Gospel-Shaped Sacrifice!

August 2, 2026

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13; *New King James Version (NKJV)*

Background: Acts 9:6; 16:35-17:15; Philippians 2:12; Colossians 1:24; 1 Thessalonians

Part 3: "God Stabilizes What We Cannot"

Context: As we close this series, let's review key points from Parts 1 and 2.

Part 1: "When Everything Is Shaking"

(1 Thessalonians 3:1-5)

- The church Paul planted modeled Christian service rooted in love for Christ and devotion to His mission.
- Timothy, Paul's spiritual son, was sent to encourage the church that was experiencing persecution.
- Timothy was willing to serve where ministry was hardest, embodying truth in a way that strengthened and stabilized.

Principle: Gospel-shaped sacrifice endures through and does not collapse under persecution. Anyone can sacrifice when it is easy; a Gospel-shaped sacrifice is anchored in God who is the Hope that keeps us when everything around us is shaking (see Hebrews 6:19).

Part 2: "Strengthening Others Even While You're Struggling"

(1 Thessalonians 3:6-10)

- Paul feared the Thessalonians' suffering might unsettle their faith, but Timothy's report became the turning point (v. 6a).
- Paul did not let his suffering distort his relationships; he understood that his trials revealed the condition of his faith.

Principle: Gospel-shaped sacrifice keeps serving others even in personal suffering, while Scripture strengthens and sustains our faith.

Part 3: "God Stabilizes What We Cannot"

(1 Thessalonians 3:11-13)

Paul prays for Thessalonians' love to overflow, and finally targets this inner transformation as the goal, which is to establish their hearts, become blameless in holiness before God our Father, for while human encouragement is real and needed, it is only God who can stabilize us (v. 13).

Principle: True sacrifice rests on God's sanctifying work, not human effort alone.

Content: 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13 (NKJV)

With Divine Guidance That Fills The Gaps

¹¹ Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you.

With Love That Grows Beyond Limits

¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we *do* to you,

With Power That Makes Hearts Holy and Unshakeable

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.

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**Beloved:** Drawing from Paul's prayer in 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13, we see that persecution may shake our circumstances, but it need not shake our hearts because God Himself establishes His people.  
**TGBTG!**

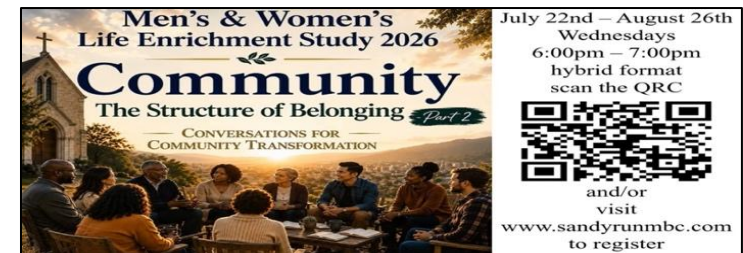
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Our Mission Statement

To love and serve God through Jesus Christ, our Savior, by the power of the Holy Spirit. To be committed to reshaping the lives of our families, our church, and our communities through *biblical worship, discipleship, and evangelism.*

Mark Your Calendars

✧ **August 5th/12th/19th/26th** - There's still time for you to register and attend the remaining sessions; we'd love to have you join us!



✧ **August 16th** – Sandy Run Missionary Baptist Church's 172nd Church Anniversary.