

A Gospel-Shaped Sacrifice!

July 19, 2026

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 3:6-10; *New King James Version (NKJV)*

Background: Acts 16:35-17:15; Philippians 2:12; 1 Thessalonians

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

Context

As we continue our study of 1 Thessalonians, we learned that a gospel shaped by sacrifice is rooted in love for Christ and devotion to His mission (see 1:7). If you missed last week's message, let's pause and review a few highlights.

Paul sent this letter through his spiritual son, Timothy, to the church in Thessalonica because the believers were facing severe persecution. Timothy was sent to strengthen and encourage this young church in their faith (read 3:1-5), for Paul feared Satan would use their suffering to shake their faith.

Because of their faith in Christ, the church in Thessalonica demonstrated a powerful truth: spiritual growth is the fruit of sacrificial faithfulness and steadfast endurance amid persecution. On the other hand, Timothy showed us that spiritual growth requires sacrifice that flows from faith rather than self-absorption. In 2:1-3:5, Paul reflected on recent events; in 3:6, he turned to the present.

Beloved, like Paul, nothing brings me greater joy than knowing you are standing firm in the Lord. When I see you faithfully attending Sunday School and enrolling in the many teaching opportunities our church provides, I am encouraged because I know you are investing in your spiritual growth. It is through the consistent study of God's Word, both in your personal devotional time and as we gather for corporate study, that you develop the endurance needed to remain steadfast during seasons of trial and persecution. Paul impressed this same truth upon Timothy when he wrote, "Make every effort to present yourself before God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). Your strength to stand does not come by accident; it comes through a life rooted in the truth of God's Word. **TGBTG!**

Content: 1 Thessalonians 3:6-10 (NKJV)

The Mutual Encouragement

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*—

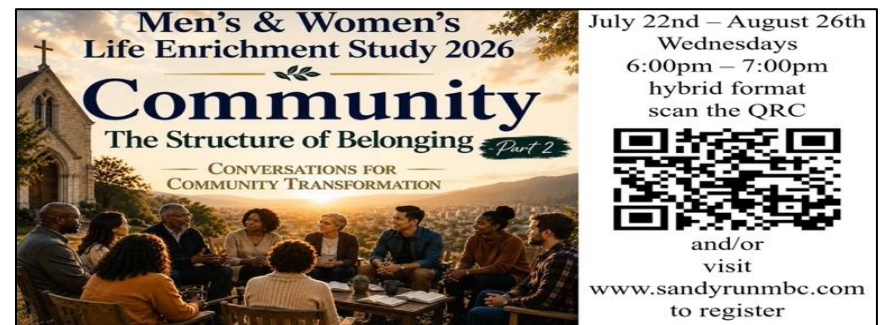
The Struggle Is Real

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.

The Cyclic Revival

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?

Mark Your Calendar



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*.