

Spiritual Maturity: What Does It Look Like? (1 Thes 3:8-13)

⁸For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord. ⁹For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God, ¹⁰night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith?

¹¹Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you. ¹²and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we *do* to you, ¹³so 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.

1. That you would remain standing in the Lord (8)

στήκω [steko] stand; stand firm

- **1 Cor 16:13** Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.
- **Gal 5:1** Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.
- **Phil 1:27** Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,
- **Phil 4:1** Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.
- **2 Thes 2:15** Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

2. That you would get repaired what is missing in your faith (9-10)

καταρτίζω mend, restore, set right, make complete

- **Matt 4:21** Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James *the son of* Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them,
- **Luke 6:40** "A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.
- **Gal 6:1** Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.
- **Heb 13:20-21** Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* glory forever and ever. Amen.
- **1 Peter 5:10** But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle *you*.

3. That you would increase and abound in sacrificial care toward each other (11)

πλεονάζω [plenadzo] cause to grow or increase

- **Matt 14:20** So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained.
- **Luke 12:15** And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."
- **1 Cor 15:58** Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.
- **2 Cor 8:2** that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality.
- **1 Thes 4:10** and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more;

4. That God would solidify your heart blameless in active holiness at the presence of God at the return of the Lord Jesus

στηρίζω [steridzo] strengthen, make firm, establish

- **1 Thes 3:2** and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith,
- **2 Thes 2:17** comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.
- **2 Thes 3:3** But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard *you* from the evil one.

ἄμειπτος, ον blameless, faultless

- **Job 1:8** Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that *there is* none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?" (cf. 2:3; 4:17; 9:20; 11:14)
- **Luke 1:6** And they [Zacharias and Elisabeth] were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.
- **Phil 2:15** that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

ἁγιωσύνη, ης f [hagiosune] holiness; consecration

- **2 Cor 7:1** Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

ἁγιασμός, οῦ m consecration, dedication, sanctification, holiness

- **Rom 6:19** I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness *leading to more* lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. (1 Thes 4:3,4 sanctification; 7 holiness)