

**Paul's Hope and Expectation for the Thessalonian Believers (1 Thes 3:8-13)  
or, What's a Grown-Up Believer Look Like?**

**1 Thessalonians 3:8** For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord. 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**? 11 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**.

Αὐτὸς δὲ ὁ θεὸς καὶ πατὴρ ἡμῶν καὶ ὁ κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς κατευθύνει τὴν ὁδὸν ἡμῶν πρὸς ὑμᾶς· <sup>12</sup> ὑμᾶς δὲ ὁ κύριος πλεονάσαι καὶ περισσεύσαι τῇ ἀγάπῃ εἰς ἀλλήλους καὶ εἰς πάντας καθάπερ καὶ ἡμεῖς εἰς ὑμᾶς, <sup>13</sup> εἰς τὸ στηρίξαι ὑμῶν τὰς καρδίας ἀμέμπτους ἐν ἀγιωσύνῃ ἔμπροσθεν τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ πατρὸς ἡμῶν ἐν τῇ παρουσίᾳ τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ μετὰ πάντων τῶν ἀγίων αὐτοῦ, [ἀμήν].

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

στήκω [stekō] stand; stand firm

- **Mark 3:31** Then His brothers and His mother came, and **standing** outside they sent to Him, calling Him.
- **1 Corinthians 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 Paul would get the chance to see them, in order to repair what was missing in their faith (9-10)**

καταρτίζω mend, restore, set right, make complete (midd. strive for perfection [2 Cor 13.11](#)); act. and midd. make, prepare, supply (κατηρτισμένος fully trained [Lk 6.40](#)) [telos → finish; katartidzo → fix]

- **Ezra 4:12** Let it be known to the king that the Jews who came up from you have come to us at Jerusalem, and are building the rebellious and evil city, and are finishing *its* walls and **repairing** the foundations.
- **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. οὐκ ἔστιν μαθητὴς ὑπὲρ τὸν διδάσκαλον· κατηρτισμένος δὲ πᾶς ἔσται ὡς ὁ διδάσκαλος αὐτοῦ.
- **1 Cor 1:10** Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you, but *that* you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.
- **2 Cor 13:11** Finally, brethren, farewell. **Become complete**. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.
- **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*.

ὑστέρημα, τος η [husterma] what is lacking, need, want; absence (of a person); poverty ([Lk 21.4](#))

- **Luke 21:4** "for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her **poverty** put in all the livelihood that she had."
- **2 Cor 9:12** For the administration of this service not only supplies the **needs** of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God,

### 3. That they would increase and abound in sacrificial care toward each other, following Paul's example (11)

ὕμᾱς δὲ ὁ κύριος πλεονάσαι καὶ περισσεύσαι τῇ ἀγάπῃ εἰς ἀλλήλους καὶ εἰς πάντας καθάπερ καὶ ἡμεῖς εἰς ὑμᾱς, πλεονάζω [plenadzo] intrans. increase, grow, become more, be extended; have too much (2 Cor 8.15); trans. cause to grow or increase (1 Th 3.12)

περισσεύω [perisseo] intrans. be left over, be more than enough ( τὸ π. what is left; wealth, ample possessions); increase, abound, overflow; excel, exceed; have plenty, have more than enough; be better off (1 Cor 8.8); π. μᾶλλον do even more (1 Th 4.1, 10); trans. cause to increase or abound; provide in abundance

- **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."
- **John 6:13** Therefore they gathered *them* up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were **left over** by those who had eaten.
- **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.
- **2 Cor 9:8** And God *is* able to make all grace **abound** toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may have an **abundance** for every good work.
- **Phil 4:12** I know how to be abased, and I know how to **abound**. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to **abound** and to suffer need.
- **1 Thes 4:1** Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should **abound** more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God;
- **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;

Paul's example: 1 Thes 2:1-12

### 4. That God would fixate their hearts blameless in active holiness as judged in the presence of God at the return of their Lord Jesus

στηρίζω [steridzo] strengthen, make firm, establish; fix, set up; τὸ πρόσωπον ζ. make a firm resolve

- **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.
- **James 5:8** You also be patient. **Establish** your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

ἄμemptos, ον blameless, faultless

- **Gen 17:1** When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I *am* Almighty God; walk before Me and be **blameless**."
- **Job 1:1** There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was **blameless** and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.
- <sup>8</sup> 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. Job 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

- **Rom 1:4** and declared *to be* the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of **holiness**, by the resurrection from the dead.
- **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, οὐ m consecration, dedication, sanctification, holiness

["holy-nization? The process of bringing you to ἁγιωσύνη?]

- **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**.
- **Rom 6:19** Ἀνθρώπινον λέγω διὰ τὴν ἀσθένειαν τῆς σαρκὸς ὑμῶν. ὥσπερ γὰρ παρεστήσατε τὰ μέλη ὑμῶν δοῦλα τῇ ἀκαθαρσίᾳ καὶ τῇ ἀνομίᾳ εἰς τὴν ἀνομίαν, οὕτως νῦν παραστήσατε τὰ μέλη ὑμῶν δοῦλα τῇ δικαιοσύνῃ εἰς ἁγιασμόν.
- **Rom 6:22** But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to **holiness**, and the end, everlasting life.
- **Rom 6:22** νυνὶ δὲ ἐλευθερωθέντες ἀπὸ τῆς ἁμαρτίας δουλωθέντες δὲ τῷ θεῷ ἔχετε τὸν καρπὸν ὑμῶν εἰς ἁγιασμόν, τὸ δὲ τέλος ζωῆν αἰώνιον.
- **1 Cor 1:30** But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God -- and righteousness and **sanctification** and redemption --
- **1 Cor 1:30** ἐξ αὐτοῦ δὲ ὑμεῖς ἐστε ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ, ὃς ἐγενήθη σοφία ἡμῖν ἀπὸ θεοῦ, δικαιοσύνη τε καὶ ἁγιασμός καὶ ἀπολύτρωσις,
- **1 Thes 4:3** For this is the will of God, your **sanctification**: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;
- **1 Thes 4:3** Τοῦτο γάρ ἐστιν θέλημα τοῦ θεοῦ, ὁ ἁγιασμός ὑμῶν, ἀπέχεσθαι ὑμᾶς ἀπὸ τῆς πορνείας,
- **1 Thes 4:4** that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in **sanctification** and honor,
- **1 Thes 4:4** εἰδέναι ἕκαστον ὑμῶν τὸ ἑαυτοῦ σκεῦος κτᾶσθαι ἐν ἁγιασμῷ καὶ τιμῇ,
- **1 Thes 4:7** For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in **holiness**.
- **1 Thes 4:7** οὐ γὰρ ἐκάλεσεν ἡμᾶς ὁ θεὸς ἐπὶ ἀκαθαρσίᾳ ἀλλ' ἐν ἁγιασμῷ.
- **2 Thes 2:13** But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through **sanctification** by the Spirit and belief in the truth,
- **2 Thes 2:13** ἡμεῖς δὲ ὀφείλομεν εὐχαριστεῖν τῷ θεῷ πάντοτε περὶ ὑμῶν, ἀδελφοὶ ἠγαπημένοι ὑπὸ κυρίου, ὅτι εἴλατο ὑμᾶς ὁ θεὸς ἀπαρχὴν εἰς σωτηρίαν ἐν ἁγιασμῷ πνεύματος καὶ πίστει ἀληθείας,
- **1 Tim 2:15** Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and **holiness**, with self-control.
- **1 Tim 2:15** σωθήσεται δὲ διὰ τῆς τεκνογονίας, ἂν μείνωσιν ἐν πίστει καὶ ἀγάπῃ καὶ ἁγιασμῷ μετὰ σωφροσύνης·
- **Heb 12:14** Pursue peace with all *people*, and **holiness**, without which no one will see the Lord:
- **Heb 12:14** Εἰρήνην διώκετε μετὰ πάντων καὶ τὸν ἁγιασμόν, οὗ χωρὶς οὐδεὶς ὄψεται τὸν κύριον,
- **1 Peter 1:2** elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in **sanctification** of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.
- **1 Peter 1:2** κατὰ πρόγνωσιν θεοῦ πατρὸς ἐν ἁγιασμῷ πνεύματος εἰς ὑπακοὴν καὶ ῥαντισμὸν αἵματος Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, χάρις ὑμῖν καὶ εἰρήνη πληθυνθείη.