



## Stand Firm

### When Trials Come...

1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5

#### I. We think we're in control but \_\_\_\_\_

"We sent Timothy...to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, so that no one would be unsettled by these trials..." v.2 (NIV)

#### II. Trials are \_\_\_\_\_

"...You know quite well we were destined for them. Even when we were with you, we told you we all would have to suffer, and you know it has happened." v.3b-4 (NIV/NCV)

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33 (NIV)

#### III. Troubles we face:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

#### IV. Being an over-comer:

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." Revelation 21:4 (NIV)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_



## Sit and think on it



### Dealing with Tough Times

When you were a youngster, when and where did homesickness strike hard? What did you do about it?

What room from your childhood home fills you with warm memories? What happened there?

Read: 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5

Why do you think the Apostle Paul called the Thessalonian believers his "hope," "joy," and "crown"?

If Paul had warned them that following Christ and walking in His way would bring them tough times when he was present with them in Thessalonica (v.4), why is he writing to them about it now?

What was Paul's purpose in sending Timothy from Athens to the believers in Thessalonica? What does it say about Paul's desires and concerns for the Thessalonian believers?

If someone told you that God promises a trouble-free life to those who are true believers, how would you respond?

What are you struggling with most in your life right now? Where are you encountering trouble? Where is it coming from? Explain.

In what specific ways have you been encouraged by someone else's faith? Have you told them about it?

What is your typical response in dealing with tough times in life? What would you like your response to be? Who can you invite into your life to assist you to make it so?

How can you be like Timothy, someone who strengthens and encourages others in their faith (v.2)? Who in your life could benefit from some encouragement right now? How will you do that?



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