

Are you wondering what it means to be a Christian?

Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). Jesus also said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:44).

If you are feeling drawn to Christ, it is because God the Father is drawing you; it is not a desire we can or will create within ourselves. This also means that there is no sin too great to be forgiven, and no past too sinful to be overcome. You can trust Christ to receive you because it is God the Father who is drawing you to find true repentance and receive the gift of faith. You can know a new life in Jesus Christ.

We would love to talk and pray with you about this or any other spiritual needs you may have. Please see Pastor Mark or one of our elders after today's service to do so.

Are you interested in Baptism or Church Membership?

Please indicate your interest on the back of your Connection Card and Pastor Mark or one of the elders will be in touch with you this week to set up a time to meet with you.

FACING TRIALS? – STAND FIRM AND PRAY 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5

Main Thought: We learn from 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5, that when we are facing trials, we need to stand firm and pray.

1. STAND _____ (2:13-17)
 - 1) Remember the source of your _____. (2:13)
 - 2) Remember the _____ of your ongoing sanctification and encouragement. (2:13, 16-17)
 - 3) Hold fast to the _____ Teachings. (2:15)
 - 4) Remember your _____ destiny. (2:14)
2. _____ (3:1-5)
 - 1) Pray that the _____ of Jesus Christ will continue to spread successfully. (3:1)
 - 2) Pray that we don't give into temptation, but that _____ will deliver us from evil and wickedness. (3:2-4)
 - 3) Pray the Lord will direct our hearts to the _____ of God and the steadfastness of Christ. (3:5)

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS

1. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5 and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal God's truth to you as you read.

2. What do you learn about God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) from this passage?

3. What do you learn about human beings/yourself from this passage?

4. What verse meant the most to you? Why?

5. What didn't you understand in the passage? What answers did you find for your questions?

6. What application(s) for your life do you take away from this passage?

Digging deeper:

7. What sources of strength do you find in 2 Thess. 2:13-17 for standing firm in your faith?

8. Is the doctrine of election a comfort to you or a source of perplexity? Why? How could it become a source of comfort?

9. How has the Word of God helped you stand firm in your faith when facing a difficult time?

10. How have you been aware of the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in your life?

11. If God has chosen people for salvation, why should we pray for the spread of the Gospel? Why should we evangelize?

12. Someone asks you, "If God really loves you and if He wants all people to hear the gospel, why does He allow the persecution and martyrdom of His people?" How would you reply?

13. Why do you think Paul prays for the hearts of believers to be directed into God's love and Christ perseverance when facing difficult times?