

**HOW CAN WE STAND FIRM IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING?**  
**Part 2: RECEIVE THE WORD, RESPOND IN FAITH AND RELY ON THE LORD**  
**1 Thessalonians 3:6-13**

- I. **Review: REMEMBER GOD USES HIS WORD** through His servants **TO STRENGTHEN AND ENCOURAGE US AMID THE THREATS TO OUR FAITH:** Out of great concern, Paul sacrificially sent Timothy to strengthen and encourage them in their faith (1-5)
  
- II. **RECEIVE THE WORD** by those sent **AND RESPOND IN FAITH: Timothy reports back the good news of their faith and love**, as evidenced by the Thessalonians thoughts toward and desire to see Paul and his companions **(6)**
  
- III. **RECOGNIZE GOD USES YOUR RESPONSE** of faith **TO COMFORT AND BRING JOY to those concerned about you, which brings glory to God (7-9)**
  - A. In their distress, **Paul and His companions were comforted about them by the report of their faith (7)**
  
  - B. **Paul's life was caught up in the desire to see these stand firm in the Lord (8)**
  
  - C. **The report of the Thessalonians faith brought joy and thankful rejoicing before God (9)**
  
- IV. **RELY COMPLETELY ON THE LORD TO ESTABLISH YOU: Paul's prayer reveals God's desire for us (10-13)**
  - A. **Paul shares he was praying** continually and earnestly **for these Thessalonians** that they might see them to complete what was lacking in their faith (10)
  
  - B. **His prayer (11-13)**
    - 1. Specifically, that the Lord might remove obstacles to their return and cause them to abound in love for each other (11-12)
  
    - 2. Unto the goal, that God might establish their hearts unblameable at the coming of the Lord (13)