

LESSON 4
STANDING ALONE
1 THESSALONIANS 2:17—3:13



1 Who taught you how to drive?

2 When did you stop depending on that person's help?



Read 1 Thessalonians 2:17—3:13 and the following notes:

☐ 2:18 ☐ 3:1–3 ☐ 3:4 ☐ 3:5 ☐ 3:7, 8

3 How did the Thessalonians have to stand alone (2:17, 18)?

4 What did Paul fear would happen to the Thessalonians after he left (3:1–3, 5)?

5 How did the Thessalonians respond to this time of testing (3:6–10)?

Paul and his companions were forced to leave Thessalonica sooner than they wanted to, having been driven out by persecution. The new believers they left behind were hardly established in the faith. Yet without the support, teaching, or encouragement of older Christians, and despite the opposition they faced, they remained faithful to Christ. By the time Paul sent Timothy to find out how they were doing, they had become rooted in their faith. Because their faith rested in Christ himself, not in Paul, Timothy, or Silas, they passed the test. Pastors, church leaders, authors, and “older” Christians help us grow, but we must not become overly dependent on them. Eventually we need to stand alone in our faith. Then, when we are tested, as the Thessalonians were, our faith will survive.



6 How can a Christian become overly dependent on a leader, teacher, or mentor?

7 Why is it a problem for a Christian to require the presence or teaching of a particular person in order to grow?

8 When might a Christian’s faith in Christ alone be tested?



9 Who are your spiritual mentors?

10 How have your mentors helped establish you in your faith?

11 What kinds of situations could test what you've been taught?

12 What can you do to get ready for future challenges to your faith?



13 How could you say thank you to your spiritual mentors?

14 What can you do to reaffirm your faith and trust in God alone this week?

A Because Paul could not go to Thessalonica, he sent Timothy in his place (3:2). What made Timothy qualified to go? What skills could you learn that would enable you to minister to others more?

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B In what ways can Satan hinder your service to God (2:18; 3:5)? What else hinders your service to God? What can you do to remove or cope with these obstacles?

C What satanic activity did Paul fear would take place against the church at Thessalonica (3:5)? What can you do to be prepared for Satan's schemes?

D How did the Thessalonians encourage Paul (3:8)?

E What risks did Paul take because he loved the Thessalonians? What risks have you had to take for the people you love? What risks might you have to take in the future?