

I Thess. 3:1 The Blessing Of Loneliness

Once again in this verse, we see the great love of the apostle Paul for the saints at Thessalonica. There was a sincere longing in his heart to see these believers established in the holiness of God. Being himself hindered by Satan and unable to go himself, he sends his faithful labourer and minister of God, Timothy, to them. Paul chose the suffering and afflictions of loneliness that these young converts might find comfort and strength through the preaching of Timothy.

The solitary man will either degenerate into a religious hater of all humanity, with a spirit of the devil; or he will enrich and strengthen his spiritual life by reverent and subduing contemplation. (Yes, loneliness can be a disaster or it can become a blessing.)

I. Illus. Jacob At Bethel – Gen. 32:24 *“And Jacob was left alone;”*

A. He Prayed: v. 24 *“...and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.”*

B. He Prevailed: v. 28 (From Jacob to Israel) *“...for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.”*

C. He Was Preserved: v. 30 *“...for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.”*

II. Illus. Moses At Horeb – Ex. 3 *“...and he led the flock to the backside of the desert,”*

A. There Was A Revelation: v. 2 *“And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of the bush.”*

B. There Was Communication: v. 4 *“...God called unto him out of the midst of the bush.”*

C. There Was Sanctification: v. 5 *“...Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.”* (He need not draw any closer; he had been made holy that he might stand on holy ground.)

III. Illus. Elijah – I Ki. 19

A. He Departed From His Resting Place: v. 3 “*And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life.*”

B. He Separated Himself From Close Friends: v. 3 “*...and came to Beersheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there.*” **V. 4** “*But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness,*”

C. He Sat Down: v. 4 “*...and came and sat down under a juniper tree:*” (*Jesus Alone*)

What Is The Blessing Of Loneliness?

I. We Can Pray For Others: Ja. 5:16 “*Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another.*”

Co. 4:12 “*Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.*”

Phil. 1:9 “*And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;*”

II Thess. 3:1 “*Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:*”

A. Pray That They May Pray

B. Pray That Their Hearts May Be Pure

C. Pray That Their Hands Are Clean

D. Pray That Their Garments Be Unspotted From The World: Ja. 1:27 “*Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.*”

E. Pray For Us: I Thess. 5:25 “*Brethren, pray for us.*”

II. We Can Plead For Ourselves

A. That We May Please God:

Illus. Daniel 6:10 “*...he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.*”

Illus. Enoch – Heb. 11:5 “*...for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.*”

II Tim. 2:4 *“No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”*

III. We Can Praise Him

I Thess. 3:2 Man On A Mission

In this verse, Paul being hindered by satan and unable to visit these believers, chose Timothy, his son in the ministry and fellow labourer, to establish and comfort them in their faith. It is evident from the following verses that the church had encountered some afflictions and tribulations that had caught them unaware. This may have caused their faith to waiver somewhat.

1. Timothy, a convert of Paul, had patterned his life after the apostles and was unique in his devotion to Christ. II Tim. 1:4 *“Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears,”*

NOTE: Suffering from ministry fatigue and a broken heart, he continued his service to God.

2. Timothy was unselfish in his behavior.

NOTE: Apparently Paul had great confidence in him.

3. Timothy was unsullied in his life. His life was clean. We find nothing in the scripture that was contrary towards him. This is the man that Paul sent to establish and comfort in the midst of tribulations and afflictions. There are three things I want to touch upon concerning this man on a mission.

I. His Relationship To Paul And The Church:

NOTE: He is called **our** brother and **our** fellowlabourer.

NOTE: There is a Holy brotherhood of the household of faith of which we should have a peculiar love for all believers We should have a sympathetic concern for all humanity, but a peculiar love toward the saints.

I Jn. 4:20 *“If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?”*

A. A Common Identification With Christ:

1. It is one grace, the grace of God, which saves us all.
2. It is one blood, the blood of Jesus that cleanses us from all sin.
3. It is one life, the spirit of life in Christ Jesus that has quickened us.
4. It is one Spirit, the Holy Spirit, that unites us.
5. It is one book, the word of God, that is the basis of our faith.
6. It is one house, the House of God, where we meet and worship.

B. A Common Interest In Each Other:

NOTE: As the branches of the vine are united to each other, even so, you and I members of the body of Christ because of our union with the Head.

Eph. 4:16 *“From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”*

1. When one part of the body suffers, the rest suffer also. **I Cor. 12:26** *“And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.”*

- a. We all are stewards: (We are to occupy till He returns.)
- b. We all are slaves: (We are under the Lord and as He bids us.)
- c. We all are partners: (We are labourers together with Christ.)
- d. We all are instruments: (To be used of Him as a workman uses his tools as he wills.)

NOTE: It is not the brush that makes a beautiful picture, but the artist who uses the brush. It is not the chisel that makes the

statue, but the sculptor who uses the chisel. It is not an organ, piano or guitar that creates a lovely sound, but the musician who plays it.

II. The Realm Of His Service: (A minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ.)

1. In the Lord is the environment we live in

2. In love is the atmosphere we live in

3. In truth is the circle we walk in

4. In the gospel is the realm we are limited to:

A. The Gospel, like a magnet, will draw sinners:

B. The Gospel, like a medicine, will heal the broken hearted:

C. The Gospel, like a mould, will fashion our life.

III. The Reason For His Mission (To establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith.)

NOTE: There are three necessary things for comfort and stability:

A. An Unveiled Face Before God: (Many lament their want of stability when they should be confessing their sin.

B. An Unwavering Faith In God's Word:

1. We must believe in Christ, not something about Christ.

2. The bible must be more than a book, but the voice of the Living God.

IV. An Unceasing Fidelity In God's Work:

A. Some bemoan their laziness when they should be confessing their sin.

B. Others think they have a special vocation in finding fault with those who are working.

NOTE: In working for God we must not look for approval or disapproval of friends or foes, but persistently continue in well doing.

I. Thess. 3:6 Glad Tidings Of Great Joy

Pr. 25:25 says, *“As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.”* I believe that is what we find here in verse six, as Timothy reports back to Paul, on the spirit and conduct of the church in Thessalonica. I want to say again that I believe that every God-called preacher delights to hear or see that his converts are growing in Grace and prospering in their Christian life. Listen to what John said in **II Jn.4** *“I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth,”* and again in **III Jn. 4** *“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”*

There are three things found in verse six that are found to be Glad Tidings, that brought great joy to their dear apostle of Christ:

I. A Healthy Faith: (If we study this small book closely, we’ll find that Paul mentions this faith a number of times.) (Of your faith – v. 6)

A. A Cleaving Faith: (Like an ivy vine cleaves to the sides of a tree.) **Illus. – Barnabas At Antioch Acts 11:23** *“Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.”*

Rom. 12:9 *“Let love be without dissimulation.. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.”* **The Lord Is Good.**

B. A Climbing Faith: (As an ivy vine sets its root in the soil, and clings to the tree on which it stands; even so should our faith find root in and cling to Christ for its health and strength to grow.)

II Th. 1:3 *“We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly,”*

C. A Calvary Faith: (It started at Calvary, that’s where I got on.)

1. Illus. The Eunuch and Philip – when he desired bap. **Acts 8:37** *“...I believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God.”*

2. Illus. Paul's reply to the Philippian Jailor: **Acts 16:31** "...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

II. A Harmonious Love: v. 6 "and charity"

A. Our Love To Christ: (For us to love Christ, we must first know Christ's love; **He first loved us.**)

I Jn. 4:10 "*Herein is love, not that we loved god, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*"

Illus. The old man and the weather vane, that said God is love. Some complained that God's love should not be compared to a fickle thing like the wind. The old man's reply – no matter which way the wind blows, God is love.

1. It is Christ's love in suffering that enables us to suffer for Him.

2. It is Christ's love in laying down His life for us that enables us to lay our life down for the brethren.

3. It is Christ's love in rescuing us that enables us to rescue others from satan and the slavery of sin.

a. As our Kinsman, He was made like us

b. As our Sacrifice, He bled for us

c. As our Prophet, He teaches us

d. As our Redeemer, He delivers us

e. As our Captain, He fights for us

f. As our Refuge, He hides us.

III. A Hearty Appreciation: v. 6 "*and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us and we also to see you.*"

A. They Had Not Forgotten His Labors:

Heb. 13:7 "*Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.*"

B. They Had Not Forgotten His Leadership

Heb. 13:17 "*Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that*

must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”

C. They Had Not Forgotten His Life: (Who he is or what he is, the man of God)

Heb. 13:24 “Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints.”

I Th. 3:7,8 Steady As You Go

In verses seven and eight, we find the great comfort and satisfaction the apostle had from the good tidings from Timothy concerning the church at Thessalonica. The comfort received proved to be much greater than his affliction and distress. It was easy for Paul to bear the afflictions of suffering and persecution, when he heard of the success of his ministry, found in the steadfast faith of his followers. It would have been a distressing thing for Paul to have found out that his converts were unstable as water, or worse yet, had been proven to be apostates.

A steadfast spirit is a virtue of great price, and is very difficult to find in God's people today. **I Cor. 15:58** says, *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."*

Illus. David's mighty man, Shammah – **II Sam. 23:11,12**
While others fled from the Philistines, he stood in the midst of a field of lentils and defended the ground until he had wrought a great victory.

Illus. Eleazar in **II Sam. 23:10** While others fled, he fought until his hand was weary and his sword clave unto his hand, and he also wrought a great victory.

(Now some areas where we should stand fast.)

I. Stand Fast In The Faith: (The faith spoken of in verse seven is what is believed and not the act of believing.) **I Cor. 16:13** *"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong."*

NOTE: The words "stand fast" imply to...

A. Remain Stationary:

1. Not tossed about with every wind of doctrine:

Eph. 4:14 *"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;"*

2. Not tempted above that we are able to bear: **I Cor. 10:13** *“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”*

A. Def. “taken:” To get hold of

B. Def. “tempted:” To entice or scrutinize

3. Not terrified by satan’s roar: **I Pet. 5:8** *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”*

II. Stand Fast In Our Freedom: Gal. 5:1 *“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”*

(Freedom is not free.) (Christ made us free.)

A. Free From A Guilty Past: (The law and its penalties.)

1. My past is forgiven: (When the woman in John 8 was left alone with Jesus) **Jn. 8:10** *“...Woman, where are those thine accusers? Hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.”*

2. My present is favored: (You will never find anywhere in the scripture where the disciples living in the presence of Christ had a need that was not met.) **Psa. 68:19** *“Blessed be the Lord, who daily leadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah.”*

Def. “loadeth:” To impose a burden. (We don’t mean to impose upon one another, but the Lord seems to bless us in spite of ourselves; whether we want the blessing or not.)

3. My purpose is fruitful: Read **Rom 8:28-30**
(Somewhere in god’s purpose is our:

1. Conforming to Christ’s Image
2. Our Calling
3. Our Justification
4. Our Glorification

III. Stand Fast In Our Fellowship: Phil. 1:27 *“Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;”*

A. Our Behavior Must Be Right

I Th. 3:9-10 Loving Others

1. Can't Be Bought (Song of Solomon 8:7)
2. Is Divinely Wrought (Rom. 5:8)
3. Is Divinely taught (II Th. 4:9)

The theme in this chapter, I have found to be, is Paul's great love for the believers in Thessalonica. This sets an example that you and I should diligently follow and pattern our lives after. Humans, unlike God, must learn to love, and then cultivate that love that it may grow and become productive. God, on the other hand, does not need to learn how to love. He is love. He is not the essence of love, He is love. But you and I, even as regenerate sinners, must learn to love. Because of our fallen condition, and our depraved and deceitful heart, we must yield ourselves to Christ and allow His love to flow through us and affect the lives of others.

1. Man without love is as sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal as he endeavors to communicate god's love to others. **I Cor. 13**
2. If our faith could move a mountain, but we are without love, we are nothing.
3. Love suffers long; and is kind. Love envieth not, is not braggadocios; does not get puffed up. (Humble.)

I. The Scriptures Command That We Love Others: Illus. The Lawyer in **Lk. 10** who tempted the Lord by asking what he could do to inherit eternal life: **v. 26** "...*What is written in the Law? How readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.*"

A. Love The Saviour: Illus. Simon – John 21; Illus. David

B. Love The Saint: I Jn. 3:15 *Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.*

I Jn 4:20,21 *“If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love god whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.”*

C. Love The Sinner: Illus. Jesus and Lazarus: Jn. 11:36 *“Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him!”* **Illus. G. Campbell Morgan**
Illus. David Brainerd

D. Love Your Enemies: Lk. 6:27 *“But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.”* **V. 32** *“For if ye love t hem which love you, what thank have ye? For sinners also love those that love them.”*

II. Evidence Of That Love: (In this text)

A. A Thankful Heart (v. 9) *“For what thanks can we render to God again for you,”*

NOTE: this is at least the third time in as many chapters that Paul has thanked the Lord for these believers! **In Ch. 1:2-2:13**

1. Thankful for Their Pardon:

(Illus. The Prodigal and the Elder Brother)

2. Thankful for Their Prosperity:

a. Spiritual: (Illus. The Faithful Servant in **Lk. 19** who was given the one pound of the unfaithful servant. **V. 25** *“And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.”*)

b. Secular

3. Thankful for Their Peace: (Can we truly thank God for someone who is living in peace and prosperity and our own life seems to be turned upside down?)

B. A Joyful Spirit: (Illus. The Prodigal and the Elder Bro.) **NOTE:** The elder brother is grumbling and complaining rather than rejoicing with his father’s household. **Lk. 15:28** *“And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him.”*

C. Intercessory Prayer: (v. 10) *“Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face,”* **Illus. – Abraham for Lot in Gen. 18**

1. This is the Highest Place of Prayer (Illus. – The Lord)

2. This is the Place Nearest The Lord: (Jesus sat down at the right hand of God.)

3. This Provides the Greater Reward

D. A Desire For A Unified Faith: (v. 10) “...and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?” **Eph. 4:13** “Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”

III. The Esteeming of Others Above Ourselves: Phil. 2:3

“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”

IV. The Exhorting of Others: Heb. 3:13 *“But exhort one another, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”*

A. Those Who Fail To Exhort Others Will Be Hardened

B. Those Who Fail To Be Exhorted Will Be Hardened: Heb. 10:25 *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”*

V. The Evangelizing Of Others:

Finding, and then walking in the will of God, should be a primary concern for every child of God. Not only will we walk in perfect peace, but we will also please God and be spiritually enriched by His gracious blessings. No matter how hard we try, there will always be failure. Such a time in **Gen. 12** when Abraham departed the land of promise and went to Egypt because of the famine in the land. Leaving God's will only led to more sin, when Abraham lied to Pharaoh and told him that Sarah was his sister.

There will always be opposition and hindrances in walking in the perfect will of God. **Sin, satan and society** will always be our adversary. God has only one will for our life, and there will be roadblocks in finding it. But it may be harder to **"prove it"** than it is to find it. **Rom 12:1,2** *"I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of god, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may **prove** what is that **good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**"*

Someone has said, "There Is nothing too small but that we may honor God by asking His guidance of it, or insult Him by taking it into our own hands. I want to look at four or five things in general and then some particular things about the will of God." (The farther you are away from something, the more difficult it is to see.)

I. We Must Be In Close Touch With The Lord: Illus. – Saul's inability to find God after the death of Samuel. He went to the witch of Endor hoping to find the will of God from a witch and a dead prophet. **I Sam. 28:15** *"...I am sore distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God is departed from me, and answereth me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams: therefore I have called thee, that thou mayest make known unto me what I shall do."*

A. On The Positive Side: Illus. Paul in the storm in **Acts 27:21-25** (READ) **Illus.: Samson**

II. Remember That The Lord Never Guides Contrary To His Word: Illus. The prophet out of Judah and his prophecy against Jeroboam and his altar at Beth-el. **I Ki. 13:9** *“For so it was charged me by the word of the LORD, saying, Eat no bread, nor drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest.”*

Narrate the Story

v. 20,21 *“And it came to pass, as they sat at the table, that the word of the LORD came unto the prophet that brought him back: And he cried unto the man of God that came from Judah, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Forasmuch as thou hast disobeyed the mouth of the LORD, and hast not kept the commandment which the LORD thy God commanded thee, But camest back, and hast eaten bread and drunk water in the place, of the which the LORD did say to thee, Eat no bread, and drink no water; they carcase shall not come unto the sepulchre of they fathers.”*

A. The Sequel: The Lion and the Donkey

III. We Must Have No Will Of Our Own In Seeking The LORD’S Direction, But Seek His Glory Alone: Illus:

Christ – Heb. 10:7 *“Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.”*

A. No Room For A Selfish Spirit

B. We Must Be Devoted To Christ

JFK: Ask not what Christ can do for you, but what you can do for Christ. (His Will will find you.)

IV. We Must Establish And Maintain A Dedicated Prayer Life: (Illus. – Daniel at Ziklag)

David has lost everything. **I Sam. 30:8** *“And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? Shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, an without fail recover all.”* **V. 19** *“...David recovered all.”*

V. We Must Walk By Faith And Not By Sight: (Illus. – Abraham and Isaac in Gen. 22 – v. 8 *“And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering:”*

Heb. 11:17-19 *“By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had receive the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.”*

VI. As The Lord Directs, All Obstacles Will Be Moved Out Of The Way: (Illus. – Paul on his way to Rome)

1. Your Personal Life

a. Spouse

b. Church

c. Job – What does He want you to do? Job

Performance

d. Friends

e. Where to read your Bible

2. Your Pass Time

3. Your Purchases

4. Your Possessions (Finances)

As Paul closes this chapter in his epistle, he is still meditating upon that great virtue of love and he focuses in on the mutual love that God's children have one toward another. The purpose of this mutual love is found in the following verse: *"To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God,"* We need to realize that the more we are beloved, the more affectionate we become. Love cannot be purchased. (**Illus. – Mrs. Hall's letter**) Love begets love. If you want someone to love you, then show them your love. **I Jn. 4:10** *"Herein is love, not that we loved god, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."* **V. 11** *"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."* **II Cor. 5:14,15** *"For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again."* (Here is love begetting love.)

As God's children, we are to have a charitable disposition of mind and due concern for the welfare of all men.

Love is of God and is a fulfilling of the Gospel as well as the law. **Rom. 13:10** *"Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."* (**Christ**) Mutual love is not a suggestion. It is a requirement: **I Pet. 1:22** *"...see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:"*

I. Signs Of Mutual Love

A. A Forgiving Spirit: Eph. 4:32 *"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."*

1. Forgive Their Trespasses: (Illus. – The Model Prayer) Mt. 6:15 *"But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."*

- a. Such as Tale Bearing
- b. Such as Temper
- c. Such as a Tepid Heart (Lukewarm)

B. A Friendly Spirit: (Illus. – Abraham) Ja. 2:23
"And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed

God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.”

1. Abraham was not as holy, righteous, or perfect as God, yet he was called His Friend.

2. Their personalities were different, yet he was called God’s Friend.

3. God knew about all the faults of Abraham, yet they were friends.

4. Real friendships are eternal:

II Chr. 20:7 *“Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever?”*

Pr. 17:17 *“A friend loveth at all times,”*

Jn. 15:14 *“Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.”*

C. A Faithful Spiritful Spirit: Pr. 11:13 *“A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.”*

1. If We cannot be faithful to one another, who can we be faithful to?

Pro. 27:6 *“Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.”*

Pro. 25:19 *“Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.”* (He is never there when you need him.)

D. A Family Spirit: (In mutual love, we are as a family, no clicks, no favorites.)

1. Born of the same parents

2. Band together by the Spirit

3. Branded with the same seal:

a. We dine at the same table

b. Eat from the same menu

c. Live in the same house

d. Going to the same place

e. We are all chastened alike

f. Cared for in the same manner

g. All heirs of the same inheritance

In verse twelve, we see Paul praying for these believers that their love may increase and abound toward one another and all men. The purpose for this abounding love is found in verse thirteen: *“To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God.”* The word “stablish” means to set fast or to turn resolutely in a certain direction. This is the same word used in **Lk. 9:51** *“And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,”* Our Lord’s heart was fixed. And He would have you and I be just as fixed in our heart as His was when He came to die.

Psa. 57:7 *“My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise.”*

Psa. 108:1 *“O GOD, my heart is fixed; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory.”*

Psa. 112:7 *“He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD.”*

What Kind of Heart Is A Fixed Heart?

I. An Uprooted Heart: Jer. 1:10 *“See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.”*

A. Root Out Sin: (Illus. – Liquor) The root problem.

1. Liquor
2. Lies
3. Lewd Living

B. There Is No Fallow Ground: Jer. 4:3 *“For thus saith the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns.”*

II. An Uncommon Heart: (One that is reserved for God.)
NOTE: An uncommon heart is separated. It is like the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle. It is for God’s dwelling alone. As the presence of God in the burning bush in the wilderness made Holy the bush and the surrounding ground; so the heart where God abides is a Holy temple.

A. The Blood Was Upon The Mercy Seat: (Illus. The Passover – Ex. 12:13) *“And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, (to hover over as He did the mercy seat) and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.”*

B. Inside Was Aaron’s Rod That Budded: (This represents Christ in His resurrection power.) **Eph. 2:5,6** *“Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, ... And hath raised us up together,”*

C. Inside Was The Tables of Law Written On Stone: (This represents the Word of God.) **Psa. 119:11** *“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”*

D. Inside Was The Golden Pot of Manna: (Representing Christ as the Bread of Life.) **Jn. 6:51** *“I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever:”*

III. An Uncovered Heart: (No veil and no hidden secrets) **Psa. 139:23,24** *“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”*

A. No Secret Sins (All things confessed.)

B. A Surrendered Spirit

IV. An Unblameable Heart: (Text) *“To the end He may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God,”*

NOTE: Unblameable means without reproach but it does not necessarily signify without fault. An amateur painter makes many mistakes which the skilled eye soon detects; thus it is not without fault, but the novice is free from blame if he has done his best. In like manner, the Lord can always discover defects within us, thus we can never be without fault. But if we are true to the light the Lord has given us, then we are free from blame.

A. Just Do What We Know To Do

B. Do It The Best We Can

1. Be Faithful

2. Be Fruitful

V. An Uncompromising Heart:

A. Be Stedfast In Your Convictions:

1. Dress Apparel
2. Don't change with the crowd

I Cor. 15:58 *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”*