



Grace Assembly Of God

CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER BIBLE READING DEVOTIONAL

Scripture:	1 Thessalonians 3	Title:	Community Through Trials
Author	Ps Steve Tan		
Introduction/ Summary of Chapter	Paul longed to see the brethren in Thessalonica. He reminded them that trials were imminent, as he too endured persecutions. Paul expressed his joy and encouragement, when he heard the good report on how they stood firm in the Lord, in faith and love.		

Key Verse(s) NIV	How does it speak to me?
<i>² We sent Timothy, who is our brother and co-worker in God's service in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, ³ so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. For you know quite well that we are destined for them.</i>	<p>In today's chapter, Paul sent Timothy to find out how the believers in Thessalonica were getting along in their Christian walk, and to strengthen and encourage them in their faith.</p> <p>For some of us, when we first became a Christian, we thought that our lives henceforth will be blessed, prosperous and smooth sailing. But as we mature in our faith, we start to realise that at times, it is anything but easy! While we have the promise of eternal life through Christ Jesus, Paul's writing also reminds us that as Christians, we are 'destined' for trials in our earthly life.</p> <p>In our Christian community, how can we support each other, so that we can thrive amid our difficulties? One good way is to look out for the "Timothys" in our lives, people whom God have sent to strengthen and encourage us, and to journey with us through trials. They can be our pastors, our small group leader, spiritual mentor, or a fellow brother or sister in Christ. And we too, can be a "Timothy", to support those who facing struggles in their lives.</p> <p>While it is inevitable that we may face troubles as Christians; we need not suffer alone. We have a community of faith whom we can depend on to journey through trials.</p> <p>So today, if some of you are facing challenges, may I urge you to approach the "Timothy" that God has placed in your life? If you have not joined a small group, do contact the church, so we can arrange for a leader to connect with you.</p> <p>Or if you know people who are struggling, may I encourage you to be the "Timothy" to them. Call or visit, or even just send a text. You will be amazed at how God can work in us and through us, to strengthen each other in the body of Christ, in this journey of faith.</p>

APPLICATION REFLECTIONS

Adult:	Are you facing any trials right now? Who are the spiritual community that God has placed in your life? Consider seeking them for encouragement and strength.
Youth:	We can all be an encourager to someone in need. Why don't you send a word of encouragement to them today?
Child:	Our words are powerful, and God wants us to use our words to build others up! Think of 1 thing to thank your parents for today.

PRAYER

Praying Scripture:	Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for the "Timothys" You have sent into our lives, to encourage and strengthen us in our faith. Help us Lord, to be an encourager to those in need, so that the body of Christ will be unified in faith and build itself up in love. May You make our love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else.
Thanksgiving Prayer:	I/We thank You for _____ (e.g. delicious food we ate, places we went, prayer that was answered, etc)
Intercessory Prayer:	I/We want to pray for _____ (e.g. healing of sickness, family members, work or study, leaders, nation, etc)
Salvation Prayer:	I/We pray for the salvation of my/our unsaved loved ones _____ (add one name per day). In Jesus' Name I/we pray. Amen.