

# The Fellowship of the Faith

1 Thessalonians 2:17-20

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## 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20

<sup>17</sup> But we, brothers *and sisters*, having been orphaned from you *by absence* for a short while—in person, not in spirit—were all the more eager with great desire to see your face. <sup>18</sup> For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and Satan hindered us. <sup>19</sup> For who *is* our hope, or joy or crown of pride, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? Or *is it* not indeed you? <sup>20</sup> For you are our glory and joy.

Order of operating for **training ourselves to understand** God's Word:

1. What does God say about **Himself**.
2. What does God say about His **will** and **work**.
3. What does God say **about us**.
4. What does God say **to us**.
5. What does God say **for us**.

## Jeremiah 29:11

<sup>11</sup> For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for prosperity and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

## Jeremiah 28:15-17

<sup>15</sup> Then Jeremiah the prophet said to Hananiah the prophet, "Listen now, Hananiah: the LORD has not sent you, and you have made this people trust in a lie. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, this is what the LORD says: 'Behold, I am going to remove you from the face of the earth. This year you are going to die, because you spoke falsely against the LORD.'" <sup>17</sup> So Hananiah the prophet died in the same year, in the seventh month.

## Jeremiah 29:10-14

<sup>10</sup> "For this is what the LORD says: 'When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place. <sup>11</sup> For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for prosperity and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. <sup>12</sup> Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> And you will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. <sup>14</sup> I will let Myself be found by you,' declares the LORD, 'and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you,' declares the LORD, 'and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.'

## Luke 15:10

<sup>10</sup> In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

## 1 Thessalonians 2:17

<sup>17</sup> But we, brothers *and sisters*, having been orphaned from you *by absence* for a short while—in person, not in spirit—were all the more eager with great desire to see your face.

A. The **bond** of our fellowship is **deep spiritual affection**.

## 1 Peter 5:1-3

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, I urge elders among you, as *your* fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, *and* one who is also a fellow partaker of the glory that is to be revealed: <sup>2</sup> shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not with greed but with eagerness; <sup>3</sup> nor yet as domineering over those assigned to your care, but by proving to be examples to the flock.

## 1 Thessalonians 3:6

<sup>6</sup> But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always think kindly of us, longing to see us just as we also *long to see you*,

## Hebrews 10:23-25

<sup>23</sup> Let's hold firmly to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; <sup>24</sup> and let's consider how to encourage one another in love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not abandoning our own meeting together, as is the habit of some people, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

1. That stimulates our Christian lifestyle.
2. That strengthens our Christian resolve.

### 1 Thessalonians 2:18

<sup>18</sup> For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and Satan hindered us.

B. The threat to our fellowship is Satanic affliction.

### 1 Peter 5:8-10

<sup>8</sup> Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> So resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brothers and sisters who are in the world. <sup>10</sup> After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen, *and* establish *you*.

### Isaiah 14:12-15

<sup>12</sup> How you have fallen from heaven,  
You star of the morning, son of the dawn!  
You have been cut down to the earth,  
You who defeated the nations!

<sup>13</sup> But you said in your heart,  
'I will ascend to heaven;  
I will raise my throne above the stars of God,  
And I will sit on the mount of assembly  
In the recesses of the north.

<sup>14</sup> I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;  
I will make myself like the Most High.'

<sup>15</sup> Nevertheless you will be brought down to Sheol,  
To the recesses of the pit.

The hindrances of Satan are momentary. They cannot prevent:

1. The advancement of the gospel.

### Philippians 1:12-14

<sup>12</sup> Now I want you to know, brothers *and* sisters, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, <sup>13</sup> so that my imprisonment in *the cause of* Christ has become well known throughout the praetorian guard and to everyone else, <sup>14</sup> and that most of the brothers *and* sisters, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.

2. The enhancement of our faith.

### 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

<sup>7</sup> Because of the extraordinary *greatness* of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! <sup>8</sup> Concerning this I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might leave me. <sup>9</sup> And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. <sup>10</sup> Therefore I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in distresses, in persecutions, in difficulties, in behalf of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

C. The future of our fellowship our Savior's appearing.

### 1 Thessalonians 2:19

<sup>19</sup> For who *is* our hope, or joy or crown of pride, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? Or *is it* not indeed you?

1. Our great consolation will be our eternal rest with Jesus.
2. Our great celebration will be the eternal fellowship of the church.

### Daniel 12:1-3

<sup>1</sup> "Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands *guard* over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. <sup>2</sup> And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace *and* everlasting contempt. <sup>3</sup> And those who have insight will shine like the glow of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.