

### Recognized a Need

1Thessalonians 3:1

Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone

1Thessalonians 3:5

For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain.

### Responded to the Need

1Thessalonians 3:2

and we sent Timothy, our brother and God’s coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith

### Rejoiced over the Fulfillment of the Need

1Thessalonians 3:6-10

But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you— 7 for this reason, brothers,[b] in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith. 8 For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord. 9 For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, 10 as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith.

How does this apply to me?

## NEXT WEEK

“LIVING FOR GOD’S PLEASURE”  
1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

### Passage Overview:

Our conduct, as believers, is of tremendous importance. It becomes the living testimony of our faith, observed by those who might not even want to hear about what we believe. Yet, too often, the way we are to live becomes a burden, driven by duty. The Spirit exhorts these new Thessalonian believers to live distinctly godly lives not out of obligation or legalism, but out of a strong desire to please God.

Living to please God simplifies and intensifies our attentiveness to our conduct. It removes duty and replaces it with a passionate response of love for God. Our desire to please God causes us to continuously grow in ways that please Him, the One who loved and loves us.

God’s will for us is simple: sanctification. This means that His desire for us is that we continually become more and more like Jesus, living holy and pure lives before God and for God as the world is watching.

One area that Paul specifically called on them to abstain from was sexual immorality. Sexual immorality is the result of self-focused desire for pleasure without regard for others. This flies in the face of seeking God’s pleasure. We can’t seek to please God and to please ourselves at the same time. Yet, when we do live for His pleasure, we find ourselves most content, fulfilled and at rest.

Living to please God is not just a matter of removing things from our lives though. These verses give us six positive actions believers can and should take in order to live vigorously for God’s pleasure. Living for Him is purpose filled. Look at the practical applications the Spirit gives in verses 9-12. How does your life please God?

**Reading for Next Week:** 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12