

Study Guide

Steadfast

1. Read Acts 17:1-10 to understand how the church at Thessalonica was founded. Notice that Paul and Silas had just come from prison in Philippi after sharing the gospel there. What was the message? What was the response? What happened to them? One year later Timothy visited and reported on how this newly planted church was thriving. How was that possible?
2. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-3. The origin of being steadfast is not rooted in good parents or mentors, but *"in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."* Watch the following video and discuss the implications of being rooted in God the Father and in Christ.
<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/illustration/114054>
3. According to v. 2, Paul prayed a lot. How could that contribute to being steadfast? (see also Eph. 6:18; John 16:24; Luke 18:1; 1 Chron. 16:11).
4. Steadfast living involves an active faith. In verse 3, describe three virtues that led to activity for God. Read James 2:14-17 and discuss the dynamic between faith and works. Is it true that those who are anchored in Christ will show evidence by active faith? Discuss.

Application

Spend some time discussing areas that are challenging for you. Pray for each other to find your full identity in being rooted in Christ. Ask God to make you steadfast.

Message Slides

Steadfast

Picture of second Missional Journey

Picture of Thessalonica

Acts 17:1b-5

"... they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. ²And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ." ⁴And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. ⁵But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd."

What does it mean to be steadfast?

1 Thessalonians 1:1-3

"Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

²We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

Steadfast in God (v.1)

"To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:"

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"To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:"

"...because our gospel came to you ... in power and in the Holy Spirit ..." 1 Thess. 1:5

Steadfast in God's acceptance (v.1b)

"Grace to you and peace."

Steadfast in prayer (v.2)

"We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers,"

Steadfast in active faith (v.3)

“remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

James 2:14-17

“What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”

James 2:22

“You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works;”