

Study Guide

Steadfast 3:1-13

Big Idea: To be established in the faith takes intentionality.

1. When we look for people to speak into our lives, what characteristics are we looking for?

Read 1 Thess. 3:1-2:

Therefore, when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's co-worker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith,

See also Prov. 13:20:

Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

2. What does it mean to be “established” or “rooted” in Christ?

Read Colossians 2:7:

rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

What challenges do we face in today's world that can push us off track?

3. What is the significance of having the right influences around us? How can we be more intentional around what influences us?

Read Psalm 1:1-3.

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

4. According to verse 5, Paul was concerned about the tempter. Read Matt. 4:1-11:

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, “He will command his angels concerning you,’ and “On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.” Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.” Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Discuss the temptation of Christ. How does this relate to our lives? Discuss the following examples:

- Hungry Harry- I intend to follow Jesus, but my natural desires are strong.
- Busy Betsy- I plan to follow Jesus, but first I have to get my work done.
- Lord Linus- I follow Jesus. I listen to Him.

Message Slides

Steadfast

Steadfast so far:

1. Anchored in Christ
2. God's love has deep implications.
3. What I say and do matters.
4. Accepting the word is opposing the world.

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A. Intentional about Spiritual Growth (v. 1-2)

"Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, ²and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, "

1. A spiritual trainer
2. A purpose statement
3. Intentional about what influences me.

Rooted in Him

Psalm 1:1-3

"Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord and on His law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither."

B. Intentional about Expectations (v.3-5)

"...that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. ⁴For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know. ⁵For 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."

>each on mouse click with image<

1. Hungry Harry- I intend to follow Jesus, but my natural desires are strong.

2. Busy Betsy- I plan to follow Jesus, but first I have to get my work done.
3. Lord Linus- I follow Jesus. I listen to Him.

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C. Pray through the Delay (v.6-13)

⁶But 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— ⁷for this reason, brothers, in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith. ⁸For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord. ⁹For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, ¹⁰as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

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C. Pray Through the Delay (v. 11-13)

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹²and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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Extended Prayer Time

Which one of these characters do I identify with the most? Why?

1. Hungry Harry- I intend to follow Jesus, but my natural desires are strong.
2. Busy Betsy- I plan to follow Jesus, but first I have to get my work done.
3. Lord Linus- I follow Jesus. I listen to Him.

What might God be saying to you about intentionality in your spiritual life?

1. A mentor- "...we sent Timothy" (v.2)
2. A purpose statement..."to establish and exhort you in your faith" (v.2)
3. What influences me..."established"; "rooted"; "planted" (Psalm 1:1-3)

4. What I expect- "*that no one be moved by these afflictions.*" (v.3)
5. How I pray- "...may the Lord make you increase..." (v.12)