



Warm-up

What would you say is your strongest strength or a passion that is easy for you.

Today we will discuss the third message in the series entitled "Unshaken". We will learn ways to live peacefully and grow spiritually in an ever-changing culture. The guidelines for living above cultural vices are not new ideas, but ones that Paul wrote to the church in Thessalonica, Greece that we can apply to our lives today to live in freedom.

Word and Application

Paul was compelled to give the Thessalonians plumb lines to use in situations to protect them spiritually in a city that was known for its very loose moral standards and convictions. We can use them in practical ways to keep our faith strong in the trenches of today's society.

Three Keys to Living Strong

1. Enduring perseverance.

Read 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5, Proverbs 18:1 & Hebrews 10:35-36.

It is important to realize that the primary objective of our enemy is to overthrow our faith. As believers, we wrestle with the powers of darkness. Even Jesus, in His temptation in the wilderness, received encouragement from angels and prayer from the Disciples. We find strength in the face of discouragement when our foundation is in Christ as we fix our eyes on Him and not the problem. Even though you may feel like quitting at times, failure doesn't consist of stumbling and falling. Failure is *staying* down. Paul is commending these people for not giving up. Your new beginning starts when you quit looking back. Nothing will keep you from the good things of God as

much as living in the past. You have to stay in faith, trusting God and His best, if you are going to see these new doors open.

Discuss the importance of understanding that stumbling isn't considered a failure, but rather a comma in your life not a period. Brainstorm various ways as a Christian you can practically receive encouragement on a daily basis to stay spiritually strong.

2. Radiant holiness.

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8.

It is the Holy Spirit's job to empower us to gain control over one area at a time. When we surrender areas that we desire to overcome to God, victory is what we get in exchange.

How does the Holy Spirit help you take your bad habits and turn them into good habits that give God glory? How does God's grace for us fit into living a holy life?



3. Brotherly love.

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10, John 13:35.

Characteristics of "agape" love is expressed by treasuring the God-given relationships in our lives with pure motives and conduct that results in overcoming toxic habits as a byproduct.

How does it benefit you spiritually when you love your brother by investing in them to make their life better? What can you do to help someone else? Take a moment to encourage each person in the group.

Prayer

Thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit that was given to help us and empower us to overcome the enemy. Ask God to forgive you for any impurity in your life. Thank Him for grace for a fresh start. Ask God to remind you each morning that the Holy Spirit is with us all day and is eager to help us overcome every stronghold in our lives. Pray for specific needs of the group.