

UNSHAKEN

Part 1: Power Under Pressure

Text: *(1 Thessalonians 3:8 NKJ) For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord.*

I. THE CHURCH UNDER PRESSURE

- A. Suffering as a Christian
 - 1. Persecution exists *(Mark 4:16-17 NKJ)*
 - 2. Jesus warned us that this would happen *(John 15:18-19 NKJ)*
- B. Suffering as a Christian in the flesh *(1 Peter 4:1-2 NKJ)*
 - 1. Not suffering with sickness and disease
 - 2. Suffering due to saying no to sin

II. PAUL'S INSTRUCTIONS TO A CHURCH UNDER PRESSURE *(1 Thess 3:1-3 NKJ)*

- A. Sending somebody
 - 1. Timothy was a minister in the gospel
 - 2. Five key ministry gifts *(Ephesians 4:11-12 NKJ)*
 - 3. Since it's the Lord Jesus that gives the gifts
- B. Timothy's main objective - to help their faith
 - 1. What they believed and acted upon
 - 2. Establish - to fix firmly, to set fast
 - 3. Encourage - to comfort, help, call up
- C. One reason their faith was important
 - 1. Kept them from being shaken in difficult times
- D. Paul's primary concern was their faith - not their problems *(1 Thess 3:4-5 NKJ)*
 - 1. Sent Tim to know where their faith was
 - 2. Their faith was able to keep them on track - supersede their problems *(1 John 5:14 NKJ)*
 - 3. Faith was an effective weapon against the pressure of the tempter
 - 4. Their faith would help them stand fast in the Lord *(1 Thess 3:6-7 NKJ)*