“Growing Pains”  
David Owens  
1 Thessalonians 2:13-20  
3.25.12

Introduction:  
A. In truth, ________ is painful!  
B. Growing __________ can also be painful.  
C. Spiritual _________ and __________ have value we often can’t appreciate at the time, but can make us grow strong over the course of time.

I. Exploring the Text  
A. Why did Paul constantly thank God for them? Because of the way they __________ the _______ of God (2:13).  
B. Those in Judea faced __________ and grew through it, and the Thessalonians followed their _________ and did the same (2:14).  
C. The Jews had a long history of _________ anyone who brought ________ ________ to them (2:15).  
D. The result of the many sins of the Jews was that their sins stacked up to the _________ (2:16).  
E. The phrase “were torn from you” employs a powerful image—one of a ________ separated from a deceased ________, or a ________ orphaned from __________ (2:17).  
F. Paul wanted them to know that he tried to come to them, but that ________ had stopped him (2:18).  
G. Paul wanted them to know that they were his _________ (2:19-20).

II. Applying the Text - How to Experience Spiritual Growth  
A. Allow the _______ of God to ________ in us.  
B. Take seriously the _______ that is within us.  
C. Overcome the ____________ Satan puts before us.  
D. Keep our _______ on the ________ ahead of us.