

# Lessons From I Thessalonians

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## Supplying What Is Lacking

(I Th 3:9-10)

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
  - a. Greeting...
2. Series of “Lessons From I Thessalonians.”
  - a. Two weeks ago we looked at “Concern For The Brethren.”
    - i. We examined Paul’s concern and how concerned we ought to be for our brethren.
      1. **I Th 3:1-10**
  - b. Today we are going to look at “Supplying What Is Lacking.”
    - i. **I Th 3:9-10** “For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, 10 as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?”<sup>1</sup>
3. Things to remember...
  - a. Timothy had come back to Paul from Thessalonica.
    - i. Timothy had given Paul a good report concerning the brethren.
      1. **I Th 3:6**
  - b. Paul was thankful for three specific things concerning the Thessalonians.
    - i. Their faith
      1. Though young and immature they were staying strong in the faith.
        - a. **I Th 3:6**
    - ii. Their love
      1. Though we don’t know exactly what Timothy said of their love we know it was favorable.
        - a. **I Th 3:6**
    - iii. Their fond memories of Paul.
      1. Though Paul was there only a short time they had a great respect, admiration, and love for Paul.
        - a. **I Th 3:6**
  - c. Paul was comforted by the report from Timothy.
    - i. This showed the Thessalonian brethren that their lives had purpose to more than just those physically around them.
  - d. It is here Paul makes known his plea to come back to the brethren at Thessalonica.
    - i. He wanted to “supply what is lacking in [their] faith.”
4. With that in mind let us learn this valuable lesson from Paul.

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<sup>1</sup> All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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## I. Supply Lacking Faith By “Being Present”

- A. This is the first step to helping those that are lacking in faith
  - 1. There is something to be said about simply “being present.”
    - i. God sent prophets to be His “presence” for the people.
    - ii. God sent His Son to the earth to be His “presence” for the people.
    - iii. God sent His apostles to be His “presence” for the people.
- B. God expects each mature Christian to be present i.e. there for His babes in Christ
  - 1. Paul could have simply just written what they were lacking but he wanted to be in their presence to supply them.
    - i. **I Th 3:10** “as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?”
- C. Thus...
  - 1. God wants us to be present for His children that are lacking in faith.
    - i. Remember this isn’t the wayward this is the young inexperienced and easily led astray babe in Christ.
    - ii. Just like a new born baby needs care and attention so too does the new born Christian.
  - 2. If the mature in Christ neglect the babes in Christ...woe to them that do so.

## II. Supply Lacking Faith By “Teaching God’s Word”

- A. This is the second step to helping those that are lacking in faith
  - 1. One cannot just simply “be around” another they must impart spiritual guidance.
  - 2. Remember what Paul told the older men and women.
    - i. They were to impart their spiritual wisdom to the younger i.e. that which is “sound doctrine.”
      - a. **Ti 2:1-6** “But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. 2 Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. 3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, 4 and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. 6 Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled.”
- B. Being present is necessary and sound doctrine is vital
  - 1. This is the idea behind what Paul told Timothy
    - i. **I Ti 2:2** “and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”
- C. Thus...
  - 1. God wants His mature children to teach His children that are lacking in the faith.
    - i. Babes in Christ need the sound teaching of God’s Word from brethren so they are not tossed to and fro.

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### III. Supply Lacking Faith By “Showing Brotherly Love”

- A. This is the third step to helping those that are lacking in their faith
  - 1. You can “be there” physically for your young in the faith brother or sister.
  - 2. You can “impart sound doctrine” to your young in the faith brother or sister.
  - 3. You can do both but if you don’t have brotherly love while doing it you will fail to “supply” what is lacking in their faith.
    - i. That is because just being there and telling someone what is sound does not train them in faith.
- B. God expects His mature children to show brotherly love not just talk about it
  - 1. This is what James was saying.
    - i. **Ja 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? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and 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? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”
- C. Thus...
  - 1. God wants His mature children to show brotherly love to His children that are lacking in faith.
    - i. **Ro 12:15** “Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”

### CONCLUSION

- 1. If we do our job as Christians we will always have a steady flow of babes in Christ because there will be a steady flow of new Christians.
  - a. Therefore let us supply what they are lacking!!!
- 2. Question: 1<sup>st</sup> Are you needing to be supplied in your lacking faith? 2<sup>nd</sup> Do you know of anyone in the congregation that is in need of having their faith supplied?
  - a. If you answered yes to the first then let someone know. If you answered yes to the second then let that person know you are there for them and then be there for them.
- 3. Invitation
  - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
    - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
  - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
    - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
    - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
    - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
    - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
    - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
    - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**