



# More Than Words

## Sermon Series on 1 Thessalonians

September - November 2009

This Book Belongs to \_\_\_\_\_

# *“I Just Can’t Take It Any More!”*

*Scripture:* 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13 • Luke 22:31-32

## **Introduction**

When I was growing up, our family had some “missionary friends.” That meant that about every other year, this rather large family who worked on the mission field would randomly call and tell us they needed a place to spend the night as they traveled through the high desert country of Eastern New Mexico. We never knew exactly the day they’d come, so we gathered every evening and looked out the sliding glass door hoping the next car we saw would be theirs.



As kids, their crew of seven children was one of the highlights of our lives. We especially enjoyed playing a game known as “crack the whip.” Since I was the

youngest, I was always the one who got cracked off the end of the whip! We had great times together. My parents kept in touch with this family and now my children are friends with their grandchildren.

Paul’s words of affection in 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13 remind me of the feelings my family has for this “missionary family”. I think more relationships should be that way.

## Sermon Notes

How often do we feel a sense of \_\_\_\_\_ to give someone encouragement through \_\_\_\_\_?

\_\_\_\_\_ is a good form of worry; it's \_\_\_\_\_.

Some keys for Missional Churches:

- We should take \_\_\_\_\_ to encourage others.
- We can strengthen others by putting \_\_\_\_\_.
- We should be aware of \_\_\_\_\_ others deal with.
- We should do more than say, " \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_!" We should \_\_\_\_\_.

## Your Own Thoughts

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## Small Talk

1. Share with your Life Group your favorite family member you like to visit and why.

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2. Read over some of the mission reports/status reports directly linked to your congregation. What needs can you identify that these missionaries might have as the holiday season approaches? What could your group do to help out?

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## **Text Talk**

1. Chapters 2 and 3 are connected with the theme of Satan trying to prevent Paul from encouraging the Thessalonians in person (face-to-face). How did they eventually address the situation?

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2. Why did they need this kind of encouragement?

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3. What value was Timothy to Paul? What value was he to the Thessalonians?

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4. Verses 11-13 are a prayer of blessing for the Thessalonians. How do the thoughts of this prayer impact you when you read them?

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## Life Talk

1. Who do you know that needs personal encouragement – face-to-face, up close and personal – and why do you think they need this kind of attention?

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2. When you think of being anxious (having anxiety because you're worried about something or someone), what's a good reason to be spiritually anxious?

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9. Paul indicated that he had an increased level of “living” or “life” because of the faithfulness of the Thessalonians. Whose faithfulness increases your fulfillment in life?

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## Beyond Talk

End this session praying over the missionaries you've discussed and their needs. Have the final prayer led by one of the pastoral influences in your congregation as they pray 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13 on behalf of your group, congregation and mission efforts.

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