

Strengthening the Faith of God's People

1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5

Main Point:

Combat the attacks of the evil one by working to strengthen the faith of God's people.

1. The faith of God's people is always under attack.
2. This means you should work to strengthen the faith of God's people.
3. To strengthen the faith of God's people, you will have to make sacrifices that cost you.
4. In doing this, you will reflect God's care for the faith of His people in Jesus Christ.

Cross-References and Quotations

Job 1:12 ¹² And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his *person*." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD. (NKJV)

Daniel Hyde "The Devil is merely a dog upon a chain that God allows to go out only so far to do only so much. He's God's devil. He is limited. And so we know that when he comes against us God is in control."

1 Peter 5:8 ⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (NKJV)

Andrew Young "Faith lies at the root of the Christian life. It is not only that by which we are saved, but also that by which we live (Gal. 2:20; 2 Cor. 5:7). It can either be weak or strong, sound or defective. No effort should be spared to see that our own faith is vigorous. And what we value for ourselves we should seek for others as well."

Philippians 2:19-22 ¹⁹ But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. ²⁰ For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. ²¹ For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. ²² But you know his proven character, that as a son with *his* father he served with me in the gospel. (NKJV)

James Grant, Jr. "Timothy was the embodiment of Paul, and that is precisely why the sacrifice was so great."

Andrew Young "Costless ministry is a rarity, if it exists at all."

James Grant, Jr. "Paul's sacrifice for that church not only demonstrated his love for these Christians but also demonstrated God's love for these Christians."