

# What is the Lord's Plan for Strengthening & Protecting You?

Intro:

1. **ILL: Voice of the Martyrs testimonies.**
2. Who knows. Maybe within your lifetime, you may be called upon to deny Lord Jesus or suffer for Him.

*II Thessalonians 3:1-5*

## I. v1-3 - Having the Word Proclaimed

A. **v1** - What is the "message" here?

1. **Message** (λόγος) = word, a spoken idea.
  - a. It referred to Lord Jesus being the message of God in person.
  - b. **Jn 1:1,14 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.**
2. **Word** (ῥῆμα) = a word that is uttered or proclaimed.
  - a. Here it means the word which has been preached to you, the apostle's teachings.
  - b. . **I Pet 1:24-25 - "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.**
3. **v4** - It's a command from God delivered by His servants.
  - a. **ILL: It's like the chain of command in the military.**
  - b. God used His apostles as His instruments to deliver His message of salvation.
  - c. God is wanting to use you in the same way. **Mk 16:15 - Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.**

B. **v1** - What needs to happen to the message to make it effective?

1. It must be free to spread rapidly.
  - a. **Spread rapidly** (τρέχω) = to run fast without any obstacles in the way.
  - b. It has the idea of **Heb 12:1 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.**
2. It must be honored.
  - a. **Honor** (δοξάζω) = glorify.
  - b. The word used for the "Shekinah" in the Tabernacle & the Temple, the brilliance of God's presence.
  - c. Most notably seen in the pillar of fire & brilliant cloud in the wilderness journey (**Ex 14:24**).
  - d. This is what happened to Jesus at the Transfiguration (**Matt 17:5**).
  - e. Whenever people are won to the Lord through spreading this message, the word of God is glorified!

## II. v4 - Having the Word Obeyed

A. "You are doing" - Your salvation is confirmed when you obey the gospel.

1. The gospel message is the story of our Lord's life, death, burial & resurrection (**I Cor 15:1-4**).
2. Obeying the gospel is your response to it: your faith, repentance, the Good Confession & baptism.
3. Obedience to the gospel is essential. **II Thess 1:8 - He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.**

B. "Continue to do" - Your salvation is guaranteed through your faithfulness to the gospel.

1. Faith - belief in the gospel message grows into trust in Jesus as a person.
2. Repentance - it's the daily process of transforming the old life into a new one.
3. The Good Confession - it's sharing your growing faith with anyone who will listen. (**Matthew 16:16 & Romans 10:9-10**)

### III. v5 - Having the Word Appreciated

A. **Direct your heart** (κατευθύναι ὑμῶν τὰς καρδίας) = cause you to appreciate or understand.

B. What are you to appreciate?

1. God's love.

- a. He loved you enough to go to the cross for you (**Jn 3:16**).
- b. He loved you even when you were His enemy (**Rom 5:8**).
- c. How much love does it take to impress you?

2. Christ's perseverance.

- a. He suffered innocently because that was the only way to save you. **Heb 9:22 - In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.**
- b. He suffered innocently because He was the only one who could do it. **Heb 4:15 - For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin.**

3. Let your lives prove that you appreciate what Lord Jesus did for you!

Focus on the word of God - the gospel message of salvation.

Trusting it will bring you strength.

Obeying it will bring you eternal protection.

Appreciating it will bring you closer to God!

<http://biblelifemessages.org/>