

II Thessalonians 1:4-5

Hard times. Trouble. Persecutions. Afflictions. Trials.

What kind of images or circumstance come to mind when you think of the Thessalonians that Paul would use these words to describe their situation?

What kind of images or circumstances come to mind when applying them to a person or situation you recently encountered or have heard about?

How have you seen these people progress through these hard times? Determined? Enduring? Worthy? "Made such strides / reached such proportions?"

Steady and determined in your faith...perseverance and faith...endurance and faith...Faith seems linked with a marathon!

Read Matthew 25:23. What do we need to do to hear, "well done" at the end of our race... or have someone say they are proud of how we remain steady in our faith?

Have you ever cheered anyone running in a marathon? Not only do the runners get a map of the course, spouses and friends also research the course to be able to drive or cut across streets to meet their runner at the next point ahead in the race. Read Hebrews 3:13 How can you cheer others onward?

What cheers you on in your faith? Read 2 Thessalonians 1:12. Do you have someone to motivate you to keep putting one foot in front of the other?

What Bible verses encourage you the most? (If you can't think of any, start skimming through the Psalms [near the middle of the Bible] until one catches your eye.)

Jot them down:

Read Ephesians 6:10-13 then verse 16 then back to 2 Thessalonians 1:11

How are we to stand and persevere through trials like the Thessalonians?

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Series: **1 Thessalonians**

*Final Thoughts*

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**2 Thess 1 - 12**

**God is Trustworthy**

Prov 3:5-6 Ps 125:1

**God is Just**

Le 19:18 Ro 12:19 Matt 5:43-45

**God is at Work**

Php 2:13 Ps 138:7-8