

SERMON HANDOUT for February 12, 2023



An Authentic Life!

An Authentic Discipleship

1 Thessalonians 3:1-13 NKJV

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INTRODUCTION

Paul, Silas, and Timothy brought the gospel to Thessalonica.

- Believers in Thessalonica accepted the message.
- Paul longs to be with them again.

Paul again sends Timothy to encourage them in their Christian faith.

- Paul earlier received positive reports from Timothy.
- Paul prays for even greater growth in Christ among the Thessalonians.

Paul's posture - discipleship is about authentic relationship that motivated the desire to grow.

One key to Authentic Discipleship is Surrender on both sides:

- One side - the Discipler
- Other side - the Disciplee

Paul models three components of Discipleship that we need recognize and display.

AUTHENTIC DISCIPLESHIP IS:

1) CONCERNED ABOUT SPIRITUAL _____ - 1 Thess. 3:1-5 NKJV

Even the best technology is no replacement for relationship.

Paul sent Timothy!

Authentic Discipleship in its CONCERN for Spiritual Maturity seeks to:

a) Stabilize Faith - 1 Thessalonians 3:2

Encourage (Greek, *parakaleo*)

b) Shake Fear - 1 Thessalonians 3:3

Dr. Tony Evans

Believer are appointed to trouble. We are elected, chosen, destined, for trouble.

It knows our address, and it will arrive at our door, according to John 16:33.

But the good news is that God intends to use it for good.

c) Stop Satan - 1 Thessalonians 3:5

— Paul knew that the devil is an evil spirit who hates God and seeks to tempt God's children and destroy their faith.

2) CONSISTENT IN SPIRITUAL _____ - 1 Thess. 3:6-10 NKJV

Authentic Discipleship, being CONSISTENT in Spiritual Mentoring, seeks to:

a) Energize Faith - 1 Thessalonians 3:7

Dr. Tony Evans
Everyone loses faith. Everyone falls down. We need someone to pick us up again. Paul had the Thessalonians. Whom do you have? Connectivity with a solid, biblically centered local church is indispensable for properly progressing in the Christian life.

b) Encourage Perseverance - 1 Thessalonians 3:8

— How **you stand** will determine how **we live!**

c) Endorse Fellowship - 1 Thessalonians 3:10

— Faith needs community!

Dr. Tony Evans
On our own, our faith is lacking. If we believe all by ourselves, we will not believe for long. Any unchurched, uninvolved Christian is living outside the will of God.

3) CONFIDENT IN SPIRITUAL _____ - 1 Thess. 3:11-32 NKJV

Authentic Discipleship, being CONFIDENT in Spiritual Mentoring, seeks to model:

a) Submission to the Father - 1 Thessalonians 3:11

“Direct” (Greek: *kateuthyno*) - means to guide, to lead, to make straight.

b) Sincerity to one another - 1 Thessalonians 3:12

— Love is a choice to serve someone for his or her good!

c) Sanctity in Motives - 1 Thessalonians 3:13

“Heart” (Greek: *kardio*), English word **“cardio”** means the inner self or mind.
