1Thess #43

Leaders should strengthen and encourage those under their authority.

Please keep Rob’s brother Bill in prayer.

Let us open up in chapter three of 1Thessalonians and as we begin this new chapter, we will read the first few verses as an introduction.

1Thes 3:1 Therefore, when we could no longer endure *it,* we thought it best to be left behind, alone at Athens,

The Apostle Paul is still carrying the same message from chapter two, which again highlights his endearing feelings toward this new church.

What you will notice is the use of the plural sense of *WE* – meaning more than one.

/[1Th 3:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/3/2/s_1114002) and **we sent Timothy**, our brother and God’s **fellow worker** in the gospel of Christ, **to strengthen** and **encourage** you for the benefit of your faith,\

[1Th 3:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/3/3/s_1114003) so that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we have been destined for this.

[1Th 3:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/3/4/s_1114004) For even when we were with you, we *kept* telling you in advance that we were going to suffer affliction; and so it happened, as you know.

[1Th 3:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/3/5/s_1114005) For this reason, when I could no longer endure *it,* I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be for nothing.

We have already noted many stumbling blocks for the Apostle Paul. Especially in relation to his attempts to develop churches and also get back to coming face to face to check in with them from time to time.

/The other sense of urgency besides the Apostle Paul’s affection toward this new group of Bels, was a false doctrine had taken hold. Even if the gospel of Christ is in order and many elements of BD are accurate, when one false doctrine is fed into a group of Bels and they begin to accept it as truth it can be the beginning of the end for that ministry.\

So, there is a stronger need to get back to these Bels then just affection.

The second aspect of this points us to a group of Bels in some form of leadership who came together and made a decision.

The Apostle Paul only surrounded himself with men who were qualified to be leaders or pastor-teachers.

 /1Thes 3:1 - *when we could no longer endure*

Most likely - Paul, Luke, Silas and Timothy had discussed the teaching of false doctrine to the Thessalonians. The Apostle Paul displayed excellent leadership skills by incorporating other Bels opinions.\

What the Apostle Paul does here has several layers of leadership qualities within it.

One thing he always did was let all the churches know when he sent a man to check up on them or straighten anything out – it was the equivalent of the Apostle Paul himself showing up.

Pastor Bob, the man who ordained me, often did this with men like myself.

He would tell us, if any question arises you are in the leadership role. He also would tell the congregation that when he wasn’t there, that whomever was his back up teacher or lead deacon was to be respected as if it were him.

Parents need to learn this skill as well.

Children will look for the weak link in the parents and every time they will manipulate the weak parent!

Both parents need a unified, strong front.

Allowing a new leader a chance to spread their wings is important, backing up those you are training for leadership roles is the right thing to do.

This enables new leaders to gain greater skills and creates a powerful chain of command that will not be broken.

/1Thes 3:2 - **fellow worker** (*synergos*) in the gospel of Christ

Sometimes used as a term for minister, one who is an aid to others, or helps to correct or carry a burden.\

SOON-AIR-GUS, means one who works alongside, a fellow laborer. To offer service and become useful in service.

Though none of these men like Timothy, Luke or Silas, were equal in apostleship or spiritual authority, the Apostle Paul treated them as equals in many circumstances.

/Good leaders surrounded themselves with people of character and integrity which they themselves have to have established in their own life first. Leaders should always understand and respect the chain of command. Humility in leadership gives others opportunities to bring ideas or qualities that are needed for a team to succeed. There is a sense of equality yet a strong stance that ultimately the buck stops with them!\

A good leader can never lose sight that the final decisions and the blame for failure will fall upon their shoulders.

/A good leader learns that victory is a team effort, yet failure will be their own personal anchor. Quality leaders are selfless, realizing their calling will sometimes be misunderstood, challenged and in need of outside opinions. The balance of compassion, empathy, strength and endurance are paramount for success.\

A good leader has to be strong and flexible enough to listen and apply other people’s opinions, without allowing those under their authority to control them.

 The Apostle Paul knew Timothy still needed some work in the area of leadership skills and strength.

 REPEAT

But he also trusted the gift of pastor-teacher that Timothy had.

/1Thes 3:2 - **to strengthen** and **encourage** you for the benefit of your faith,

*Stērizō,* to help stand or make one strong or stable (mind and body).

*Parakaleō,*  to guide, instruct and assist.\

STER-EED-ZO, speaks to stability, stability or strength of mind and body.

PARA-CA-LAYO, comes from the root word we get one of the titles for God the HS – the comforter, or one who walks alongside us.

Timothy was a young man who respected authority, he loved the WORD and had enough spiritual self esteem to be on his way to be a good leader himself.

Jump backward to the OT – Proverbs chapter twenty four.

/The Apostle Paul trusted the spiritual growth of Timothy to use him in leadership roles from time to time. This means that Timothy understood impersonal, unconditional love and applied BD to his life. No Bel is flawless and no leader is perfect, yet for leadership there needs to be a high level of maturity. No one can lead, assist and instruct others if they are immature. \

Many of the Proverbs are attributed to the writings of King Solomon. He got many of his ideologies from his father King David. We know David was a man after God’s own heart, meaning he was dependent upon BD for his wisdom.

What we can glean from Proverbs chapter twenty-four at least the first 6 or 7 verses is that these qualities are needed for leadership under pressure.

The Apostle Paul would have seen a few of these qualities emerging in the life of Timothy for him to use Timothy in leadership roles like in Thessalonica.

/Pro 24:1 **Do not be envious** (*qānā'*) of evil people, Nor desire to be with them;

It is written in the piel stem, an intense stem in the Hebrew. Sometimes intensity is anguish, it often points to mental frustration at a deep level.\

CAN-NAH, is a strong Hebrew term for jealousy. It is used twice in that opening statement – CAN-NAH, CAN-NAH.

People who struggle with many MA sins like intense jealousy and habitual frustration, especially toward what other people are doing or what they have, have no contentment or peace.

There is no way, a Bel can grow spiritually with embedded MA sins in the soul structure.

Everyone occasionally has a MA sin, yet this points to deep levels of embedded MA sins.

Roots of bitterness!

[Pro 24:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/pro/24/2/s_652002) For their minds plot violence,
And their lips talk of trouble.

Those with this type of MA sins deep within, almost always, plot and speak hatred or violence at some point.

Actions and words begin to display what is deep within that soul.

/[Pro 24:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/pro/24/3/s_652003) By **wisdom a house is built**,
And by **understanding** it is established;

Wisdom (ḥāḵmâ), is a skill set and a lifestyle that comes from BD.

Understanding (*tāḇûn*), discernment an ability to absorb intellectual material.\

HAK-MAH, is a skill set, it is something reflected in a person’s decisions and daily lifestyle.

TAV-OON, means insight, deeper knowledge or discernment. To listen or follow intellectual instruction.

Discernment as to what is true and what is false.

This begins to point to the inner house of your soul structure. What are you building within that soul…the soul God has graciously given you?

And as the next verse points out – it matters what is inside that house of your soul, that dictates the strength of the house.

Many people have an outside structure that looks fine until you dig deeper and find out they are filled with bitterness within.

/[Pro 24:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/pro/24/4/s_652004) And **by knowledge the rooms are filled** With all precious
and pleasant riches.

BD is what should be filling the rooms of your soul, this is what builds a strong house. BD is wealth! \

The Hebrew term for knowledge *daʿaṯ, DAH-ATH,* is what we call Bible Doctrine. It comes from a Hebrew verb which means learning or being taught, having truth revealed to us.

/[Pro 24:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/pro/24/5/s_652005) A wise man is strong, And a
person of **knowledge increases power** (*kōaḥ*).

This means (inner power) strength from greater ability, skills applied and power from experience.\

CO-ATH, points to ability it is like a fruit of the spirit, something from a substance that is grown over time.

/[Pro 24:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/pro/24/6/s_652006) For by wise guidance you will wage war, And **in an abundance of counselors there is victory**.

The original Hebrew context is closer - *for victory is in the greatness of the one counselling*. This points to the one with BD applying or allowing the WORD to guide.\

Too many counselors will lead to confusion, that is a fact.

This Proverb is related to warfare, spiritual and natural warfare have very similar pathways.

It revolves around having truth, BD, knowledge - which leads to wisdom, a higher skill set. In the military one of the great assets of leadership is having good intel.

Knowing your enemy, knowing the weather conditions, knowing your strength and weakness as well as intelligence gathering capabilities all fall upon leadership.

 REPEAT

Leadership will ultimately send troops out to battle and face victory or defeat.

The situation in 1Thes 3 points us to the chain of command in action.

/Timothy (Thessalonica) was being sent into a situation that could heat up if the truth was not properly disseminated. Timothy had to gather intel and use BD and his own skill set of wisdom to determine what the next step would be. The Apostle Paul was counting on Timothy shining forth a light of leadership.\

The Apostle Paul knew Timothy was on his way to becoming a good pastor-teacher and it was time to give Timothy more responsibility.

Which is always the case – as you grow more responsibility and leadership skills will be expected of you.

To whom much is given… much is required.

All Bels need to remember it is in their new nature that victory will arrive. It is reliance upon God’s plan that will guide us.

/Isa 41:10 ‘**Do not fear, for I am with you**; Do not be afraid, for I am your
God. **I will strengthen you**, I will also help you, I will also uphold you with My righteous right hand.’\

Timothy was reaching levels of maturity and becoming a pastor-teacher who fully understood his role. This like all forms of spiritual growth is a journey, it is a process.

This is why many pastors, myself included, warn young men who are eager to start a church or become a pastor or church leader.

Double blessings… yet double discipline for church leaders.

/Jas 3:1 **Do not become teachers in large numbers**, my brothers, since you know that **we *who are teachers*** will incur **a stricter judgment**.\

The attitude for leadership, especially a pastor-teacher, is one of humility, placing others over self.

/Phl 2:3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but **with humility consider one another** as more important than yourselves;

This is a key ingredient to the mental attitude of the successful leader.\

I would say for pastor or president, boss or husband - this is a standard for true leadership.

/[Phl 2:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/phl/2/4/s_1105004) **do not *merely* look out for your own personal *interests****,* but also for the *interests* of others. 5 Have thisattitude in yourselves **which was also in Christ Jesus**,\

Those in leadership will have struggles and attacks, probably more so than those under that authority.

They may even fail some tests like others do, but the expectation is that they continue in forward motion heading into SM.

There is no room for quitting in leadership.

/1Ti 3:1 It is a trustworthy statement: **if any man aspires to the office of overseer**, *it is* a fine work he desires *to do*. 2**An overseer, then, must be above reproach**, the husband of one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, skillful in teaching,\

All of these qualities point to the new nature, the fruit of the Spirit becoming active in the life of a leader.

One thing about leadership is there is little room to run or hide.

/[1Ti 3:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ti/3/3/s_1122003) not overindulging in wine, not a bully, but gentle, not contentious, free from the love of money.

There is a higher standard for the calling of church leadership. It is not sinless perfection, but there cannot be habitual problems and conflict within their life.\

Timothy had the ability to be a leader and the Apostle Paul gave him ample opportunities;

/[1Th 3:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/3/2/s_1114002) and **we sent Timothy**, our brother and God’s **fellow worker** in the gospel of Christ, **to strengthen** and **encourage** you for the benefit of your faith,

To strength and encourage those under your authority is an excellent skill set! \