

1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

1 Thessalonians 2:11 – For you know how, like a **father** with his children,

- Not only are overseers to tend to the flock like a nursing mother, but we are also to love you like a father cares for his children
- There are differences between a mother and a father (man and woman) and what they are designed to do

1 Thessalonians 2:11 – For you know how, like a **father** with his children,

- Not only are overseers to tend to the flock like a nursing mother, but we are also to love you like a father cares for his children
- There are differences between a mother and a father (man and woman) and what they are designed to do

1 Corinthians 16:13 - Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, **act like men**, be strong.

- **“act like men”** in Greek means to conduct oneself in a courageous way
- Be strong and conducting yourself in a courageous way is like the old English word fortitude – strength of mind to enable a person to encounter danger or bear pain or face adversity with courage
- Overseers are to be men that watch over the entire flock, they stand firm by courageously defending any dangers that the flock would encounter by being faithful to God’s word

1 Thessalonians 2:11 – For you know how, like a father with his children,

- Examples of this are in the Old Testament too

1 Kings 2:1-3 - When David's time to die drew near, he commanded Solomon his son, saying, 2 I am about to go the way of all the earth. **Be strong, and show yourself a man,** 3 and keep the charge of the Lord your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn,

- David (father) tells Solomon (son) to be strong and be a man (conduct yourself in a courageous way) by standing firm in God's ways like David did during his life

Joshua 1:1-9 – After Moses the Lord’s servant died, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ assistant: 2 “Moses my servant is dead. Get ready! Cross the Jordan River. Lead these people into the land that I am ready to hand over to them. 3 I am handing over to you every place you set foot, as I promised Moses. 4 Your territory will extend from the desert in the south to Lebanon in the north. It will extend all the way to the great River Euphrates in the east (including all Syria) and all the way to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. 5 No one will be able to resist you all the days of your life. **As I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not abandon you or leave you alone.** 6 **Be strong and brave!** You must lead these people in the conquest of this land that I solemnly promised their ancestors I would hand over to them. 7 **Make sure you are very strong and brave!** Carefully obey all the law my servant Moses charged you to keep. Do not swerve from it to the right or to the left, so that you may be successful in all you do. 8 This law scroll must not leave your lips. You must memorize it day and night so you can carefully obey all that is written in it. Then you will prosper and be successful. 9 **I repeat, be strong and brave! Don’t be afraid and don’t panic, for I, the Lord your God, am with you in all you do.”**

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 – For you know how, like a father with his children, **12** we **exhorted** each one of you and **encouraged** you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 – For you know how, like a father with his children, 12 we **exhorted** each one of you and **encouraged** you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

Romans 12:6-8 – And we have different gifts according to the grace given to us. If the gift is prophecy, that individual must use it in proportion to his faith. 7 If it is service, he must serve; if it is teaching, he must teach; 8 if it is exhortation, he must exhort;

- Exhort comes from the Greek word paraclete and means “to advocate or comfort”
- It comes from the same word we get “helper or comforter,” the title of the Holy Spirit
- To exhort someone is to have a similar ministry as the Holy Spirit
- Exhortation is the ability to encourage others to become mature in Christ
- It’s a call to action, to push them forward

Jude 3 - ...I now feel compelled instead to write to **encourage** you to contend earnestly for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.

1 Thessalonians 2:12 – we **exhorted** each one of you and **encouraged** you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

Acts 4:36 - Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means **son of encouragement**),...

- Barnabas encouraged the Apostle Paul

Acts 9:26-27 – When he arrived in Jerusalem, he attempted to associate with the disciples, and they were all afraid of him because they did not believe that he was a disciple. 27 **But Barnabas took Saul, brought him to the apostles**, and related to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus.

- When others were scared of Paul, Barnabas not only encouraged Paul, but was the one to stand firm and embrace him and connect him to the other believers

1 Thessalonians 2:12 – we **exhorted** each one of you and **encouraged** you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

Acts 15:36-39 – After some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brethren in every city in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are." 37 Barnabas wanted to take John, called Mark, along with them also. 38 But Paul kept insisting that they should not take him along who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. 39 And there occurred such a sharp disagreement that they separated from one another, and **Barnabas took Mark** with him and sailed away to Cyprus.

- In this case, Paul has a problem with John Mark
- Paul doesn't feel John Mark is worth taking along because he tended to desert them in the ministry
- So Barnabas advocates for John Mark and it causes Barnabas and Paul to split up in their missionary journey

1 Thessalonians 2:12 – we **exhorted** each one of you and **encouraged** you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

2 Timothy 4:9-11 – Make every effort to come to me soon; 10 for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. 11 Only Luke is with me. **Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service.**

- At one point, Paul thought John Mark was unprofitable for ministry
- But because of the exhortation of Barnabas, later when Paul is mostly left alone, Paul deems him useful for service
- It appears that Barnabas exhorted John Mark over a period of time and helped resolve the difficulty between him and Paul
- He took him and encouraged him and helped bring him to spiritual maturity

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 – For you know how, like a father with his children, 12 we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and **charged** you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

- **Charged** means to witness to or testify of
- Exhorting and encouraging is the process of coming along side and being right there helping to bring someone to spiritual maturity
- **Charged** seems to say, “trust me, I’m living proof” that it’s worth doing
- Paul is saying that he came to them like a loving father, that was right there with them, like the Holy Spirit inside them, helping to mature them along the way, and that he’s walked the same path they are walking (with Barnabas) and he’s there to testify that it’s worth it
- Like Paul and the Thessalonians, overseers are to have that same father-son relationship with their people
- We are to come along side you, help you grow, and be proof that it’s worth it

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 – For you know how, like a father with his children, 12 we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

- The pictures of a nursing mother and a loving father show us that overseers must maintain a balance
- We need to be gentle, compassionate, and caring
- At the same time, we must be the watch that stands guard
- We need to uncompromisingly teach and build you up and be strong enough to bring you into obedience to follow God's Word
- Overseers should be able to do that because we have been consistent in walking that same walk that your going through
- Eventually, as a disciple, you need to follow this same pattern and reproduce yourself in someone else

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 – For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who **calls** you into his own kingdom and glory.

- Calling refers to when you were converted
- God calls you into His kingdom and glory

1 Peter 2:9 - But you are a **chosen** race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, **a people for his own possession**, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who **called** you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

- The moment you were awakened from darkness into light **is when** you were called
- You are chosen before time began
- You are called at a specific moment

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 – For you know how, like a father with his children, 12 we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who **calls** you into his own kingdom and glory.

1 Corinthians 1:22-24 – For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are **called**, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

- When Christ crucified is preached, it's a stumbling block to the Jews
- It's sounds like foolishness to the gentiles
- But to some who hear it, the calling is the moment the power of God takes a hold of them, and makes them alive bringing them out of darkness into light
- The same words others hear as foolishness, you hear as the wisdom of God being imparted to you
- What happens at this calling?

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 – For you know how, like a father with his children, 12 we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who **calls** you into his own kingdom and glory.

Romans 4:16-17 – ...to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, 17 as it is written, I have made you the father of many nations—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives **life to the dead** and **calls** into existence the things that do not exist.

- The calling is a creation of a new existence
- You were dead, now you're alive
- Faith was created in you that did not exist before
- The calling is not a take it or leave it invitation to the kingdom
- It is a creation formed in you (by the creator God who calls into existence things that do not exist) that you are awakened to
- It can only fail as much as any of God's creative works can fail

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 – For you know how, like a father with his children, **12** we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who **calls** you into his own kingdom and glory.

Romans 8:30 – And those whom he predestined he also **called**, and those whom he **called** he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

- Who does God call into existence? Those that He predestined
- Once called, God continues that calling until you are with Him in glory

1 Thessalonians 5:22-23 - Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be **kept blameless** at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **24** He who **calls** you is faithful; **he will surely do it.**

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 – For you know how, like a father with his children, 12 we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who **calls you into his own kingdom and glory.**

Ephesians 1:17-18 – I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, will give you spiritual wisdom and revelation in your growing knowledge of him, 18 —since the eyes of your heart have been enlightened—so that you can know what is **the hope of his calling**, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

- Once our eyes have been opened at the calling, our Father grants us spiritual growth
- The hope that we rely on while walking through this life, is that because we have been called, we know one day we will be brought into His kingdom and experience His glory

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 – ...we had boldness in our God to declare to you the **gospel of God** in the midst of much conflict...but just as we have been approved by God to be **entrusted with the gospel**, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God...7 But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children...we were ready to share with you not only the **gospel of God** but also our own selves,...we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we **proclaimed to you the gospel of God**...11 For you know how, like a father with his children, 12 we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, **who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.**

- The reason we focus so much on presenting the gospel is because some who hear will be awakened and God will call them for the first time
- For those who have already been called, we continue presenting the gospel like a mother and father raising their children to maturity
- Because we know that when we give the gospel, the ultimate ending is that people are brought into the kingdom and will experience God's unfiltered glory