

In the Midst of Much Conflict

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Have Courage in Suffering: March 2023 / Conflict / 1 Thessalonians 2:1-2

We know that there are many trials and tribulations in this world, but we must not give up on our Christian faith no matter what comes our way.



In the Midst of Much Conflict Have Courage in Suffering 1 Thessalonians 2:1-2

1 Thessalonians 2:1-2 ESV

¹ For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. ² But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict.

John 16:33 ESV

³³ I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

1. Recognize Your Fears:

Matthew 10:28 ESV

²⁸ And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Revelation 13:5-10 ESV

⁵ And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. ⁶ It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. ⁷ Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, ⁸ and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. ⁹ If anyone has an ear, let him hear:

¹⁰ If anyone is to be taken captive,

to captivity he goes;

if anyone is to be slain with the sword,

with the sword must he be slain.

Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.

2. Set Spiritual Goals:

Isaiah 32:8 ESV

⁸ But he who is noble plans noble things,

and on noble things he stands.

Philippians 3:14 ESV

¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

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Romans 8:37–39 ESV

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

3. Surround yourself with supportive people:

1 Corinthians 15:33 ESV

³³ Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”

Jude 17–23 ESV

¹⁷ But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ They said to you, “In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions.” ¹⁹ It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. ²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. ²² And have mercy on those who doubt; ²³ save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

4. Practice Self-Examination, not Self-Care:

Psalms 139:23–24 ESV

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart!

Try me and know my thoughts!

²⁴ And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting!

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Lamentations 3:40 ESV

⁴⁰ Let us test and examine our ways,

and return to the LORD!

2 Corinthians 13:5–6 ESV

⁵ Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! ⁶ I hope you will find out that we have not failed the test.

5. Take action:

Revelation 3:4 ESV

⁴ Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy.

Hebrews 13:5 ESV

⁵ Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

2 Timothy 1:6–7 ESV

⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷ for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

