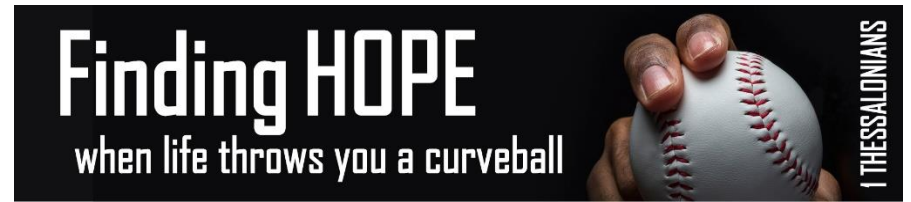


**LIFE GROUP HOMEWORK:** From Sunday, Sept. 25, 2016 (page 3)

## TAKING IT HOME

1. Take a few minutes to celebrate the faith of others. Share a few examples of how people in your life have demonstrated a faithful walk with Christ. Better yet, encourage others in your Life Group by sharing how their faith inspires you.
  
2. Make no mistake, standing firm in the faith can be difficult. Describe areas where you need to stand firm and explain how you plan to stand firm in those areas.
  
3. Take a few minutes and pray Paul's prayer for your Life Group, using the words and concepts noted in 1 Thess. 3:11-13 as you pray for each other.



### **SUNDAY MESSAGE NOTES** – Sept. 25, 2016

Series: "Finding Hope When Life Throws You a Curveball" 1 Thess. 3:6-13

Message #4: "Standing Firm When Life Throws You a Curveball"

By Nat Crawford

#### **To stand firm in your faith, you need to:**

Deepen **your faith.** 1 Thess. 3:6-8

- Study **God's Word.**
- Study the **faith** of others.
- Study **apologetics.**

#### **To stand firm in your faith, you need to:**

Deepen **your prayer life.** 1 Thess. 3:9-10

- Worry about nothing, **pray** about everything. Phil. 4:6-7

#### **To stand firm in your faith, you need to:**

Deepen **your love.** 1 Thess. 3:11-13

- Deepen your love for **other believers.**
- Deepen your love for **all people.**

**LIFE GROUP HOMEWORK:** From Sunday, Sept. 25, 2016 (page 1)

### **QUICK REVIEW**

Nat taught that standing firm in the midst of curveballs means deepening your faith, your prayer life, or your love for others. Of these three areas, which needs your immediate attention? What advice from Nat's sermon will help you grow in this area?

### **MY STORY**

1. If UPS was to stop at your house and deliver the perfect surprise gift, leaving you completely speechless, what would it be?
2. Describe a moment when you were comforted or encouraged by someone's faith.

### **DIGGING DEEPER**

1. Read I Thess. 3:6-10 and answer the following questions:
  - In your own words, what is the big idea /central theme of this passage?
  - What report does Timothy give Paul about the church in Thessalonica? As you consider the faith of the Thessalonians, in what tangible ways might you reflect their faith and love to others?
  - What does it mean to "stand fast in the Lord" (3:8)? Use the following verses to help answer the question (I Cor. 16:13; Eph. 6:10-20; 2 Thess. 2:13-15).
  - Paul appears to be joyful and thankful despite the experience of distress and afflictions. How does being faithful as a Christian result in a joyful attitude in the midst of facing life's circumstances? Why is it that Christians struggle with this paradox?
2. Read I Thessalonians 3:11-13 and answer the following questions:
  - In your own words, what is the big idea /central theme of this passage?
  - Why do you think Paul prays for increased love, and how does it relate to becoming "blameless in holiness"?
  - Paul inserts the coming of Jesus Christ into his prayer. What motivation or warning does this provide for those reading this prayer? For additional insights, look up I Pet. 4:7-11; 2 Pet. 3:10-13.