

Good morning, dear Second Church. I pray you are well. Know that you are being prayed for. I hope these daily devotionals are providing you with encouragement and equipping us together to be daily in His Word.

Be sure to contact me or an elder or deacon if you have any needs or prayer requests.

You are loved, Second.

**Wisdom Not Worry**  
**Wednesday, March 25, 2020**  
**1 Thessalonians 3:5**

**“For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless. But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love.”**

Affliction validates the authenticity of our faith. Trials reveal our true selves. Difficulties expose what is on the inside. When I was a college student, I recall snatching a decorative coconut from the dining hall. My friends and I, Pacific Northwest boys every one, had never actually seen inside a coconut before. We took it to our dorm room and assaulted that poor coconut. It was so difficult to break that we began to wonder if it was in fact a real coconut. We beat on it with a hammer, slammed it with the door and eventually took a saw to it until finally it spilled its contents. Sure enough, it was real and together we enjoyed its sweet delights.

Christians are like coconuts - we don't really know what is inside until affliction breaks us. Paul was afraid the severe trials of persecution would show his friends to be like the rocky ground Jesus spoke of that receives the Word with joy but when trouble (*thlipsis*) comes they quickly fall away (Matthew 13: 21). To his great delight, Timothy brought good news! Their evangelistic work in Thessalonika was not in vain. Under distress and persecution, they were demonstrating the authenticity of their faith and love. Paul was overjoyed.

As we are broken under the pressures of these strange and trying times, what are we revealing? When we are pressed down by heavy burdens, what comes out? Join me tomorrow as we consider three fruit that spill out of God's people under pressure.

Grateful,  
Pastor Ben