

*And the Lord direct your hearts
Into the love of God,
And into the patient waiting for Christ
2 Thess. 3:5*

2 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 3

LESSON 12

THE DIRECTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

18 April 2014

In verse 5, observe the **Holy Trinity**: “**The Lord,**” “**God,**” and “**Christ.**” Here, “**the Lord**” indicates the Holy Spirit. So it is the Holy Spirit who will “**direct your hearts**” INTO some things. The Holy Spirit never forces anybody to do anything. He Directs.

Everything a Christian does, he does on a voluntary basis for God and for others, proving what is in our hearts. The Holy Spirit will “direct;” He will point out the way to go, but the Christian is not forced to obey.

The Holy Spirit directs us in two ways in this verse:

1. He directs our heart into the love of God.

- a. This is not speaking of our love toward God.
- b. This is speaking of God’s love, which is in my heart, going out toward man (God’s love, toward man, through me).
- c. **Romans 5:1-7** demonstrates this. In verse 5, “**the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost.**” Again, according to the context, this speaks of God’s love toward man, through our hearts.
 - i. The example given in verse 6 is Christ demonstrating His love for man by dying “**for the ungodly.**”
 - ii. Verse 8, speaking of God’s “**LOVE TOWARD US,**” says “**CHRIST DIED FOR US.**”
 - iii. It is easy for us to love God. He is always good to us.
 - iv. It’s difficult to love people, especially if they have hurt us, or if we don’t know them.
 1. You can love God and not love people. You can be selfish and love God.
 2. The Holy Spirit can direct you so that you will love people—who don’t deserve it.
 - a. Our love runs out quickly. That’s why God sends **HIS** love through us.

2. He directs our hearts into “the patient waiting for Christ.”

- a. These words instruct us to live in the EXPECTATION of the coming of the Lord.
- b. But they also tell us to anticipate that we might be waiting a long time.
 - i. The remainder of chapter 3 instructs the believers to get back to work. Some had quit their jobs in anticipation of the Lord’s Coming. But the Lord said, “**I come quickly**” (Rev. 3:11, 22:7, 12, 20); He did not say, “I’m coming soon.”
 1. When the Lord comes, it will be so fast that you won’t have time to get ready.

- c. The Holy Spirit directs my heart to patiently wait for the Lord without getting discouraged and losing the excited joyful expectation of His return.
-

- d. **James 5:7-8** illustrates this: as the husbandman patiently waits for the fruit of his labor, the believer is to be patient **“for the coming of the Lord.”**

i. “Be patient” implies that it is a long way off, but verse 8 says, **“It draweth nigh.”**

1. It’s getting closer every day, but we can’t say when it will happen.

2. **“For now is our salvation nearer than when we believed”** (Rom. 13:11).

3. **“But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only”** (Matt. 24:36).

4. **“It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power”** (Acts 1:7).

- e. God doesn’t want the passing of time to rob you of your “blessed hope” (Titus 2:13). The Holy Spirit will have to direct you to patiently wait.

- f. **The parable of the sower (Matt. 13:3-9)** gives an illustration of the believer who receives the word, bears fruit for awhile, but then withers away because there was no depth.

i. When the “new” wears off and the excitement dissipates and the emotion runs out, you need to start following the direction of the Holy Spirit, or you’ll wither away and quit. He’ll remind you that Christ is coming.

- g. Hebrews 10:35-37. You **“have need of patience...for yet a little while, and he that SHALL come WILL come, and will not tarry.”**

i. A “little while” is what we tell our children when they ask “how long?” We do this because young children have no concept of time or distance. You can tell them, “We’re closer than we were the last time you asked.”

1. Similarly, God can’t explain (to our satisfaction) how long it is till the rapture. But he can tell us to be patient; we’re closer than we were.

What are we patiently waiting for? (2 Thess. 3:5)

Not for escape from this evil world. Not for our troubles to be over.

We patiently wait for CHRIST! (2 Tim. 4:8, rewards for those who **“love His appearing”**)

If you are looking forward to being with JESUS, the Holy Spirit can direct your heart so that you can know the presence and the power and the blessing of Jesus here and now.

Don’t get excited about the rapture. Get excited about the One who’s coming IN the rapture! Be excited every day—because you’re going to be with Jesus someday. The Holy Spirit wants to direct you toward that.