

An Unclear Journey

Description

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2 Thessalonians 1:3-12

The Christian journey is not a straight shot. Though we often condense the narrative down to seeking, conversion, crisis, sanctified, and glorified we rarely experience life with such succinct clarity. Rather the journey of our Christian life is like an exploration into unfamiliar territory.

Paul's letters to the Christian community in Thessalonica reveal such an understanding. In his first letter, Paul wrote, "Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith" (1 Thess. 3:10). In the beginning of his second letter, he boasts about their flourishing faith, even in the midst persecution. So at one point in their journey they are lacking in their faith and at the next point they are thriving while being attacked for the gospel.

We should take this as a source of encouragement. There will be times when we feel we are missing something in our faith. Perhaps something we can't even describe. And at another point, we'll be flourishing, even though our circumstances wouldn't predict it. Yet no matter where we are at, we are to witness to God's work in our lives.

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