

**Sermon Series: Take Heart**  
**“Tempered Hearts”**  
**by Rev. John C. Tittle**

**Scripture Reading:** *1 Thessalonians 3:6-13* NLT

<sup>6</sup> But now Timothy has just returned, bringing us good news about your faith and love. He reports that you always remember our visit with joy and that you want to see us as much as we want to see you. <sup>7</sup> So we have been greatly encouraged in the midst of our troubles and suffering, dear brothers and sisters, because you have remained strong in your faith. <sup>8</sup> It gives us new life to know that you are standing firm in the Lord. <sup>9</sup> How we thank God for you! Because of you we have great joy as we enter God’s presence. <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray earnestly for you, asking God to let us see you again to fill the gaps in your faith. <sup>11</sup> May God our Father and our Lord Jesus bring us to you very soon. <sup>12</sup> And may the Lord make your love for one another and for all people grow and overflow, just as our love for you overflows. <sup>13</sup> May he, as a result, make your hearts strong, blameless, and holy as you stand before God our Father when our Lord Jesus comes again with all his holy people. Amen.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What verse particularly jumped out at you? Why?
2. Can you think of one of the most memorable letters you’ve ever received?
3. What’s your toughest long-distance relationship right now?
4. Paul displays a real affectionate bond for the church in Thessalonica. What are some words that he uses to convey that?
5. Can you think of a time you were encouraged by seeing another person’s faith in action?
6. Paul prays that the church would have a strong, blameless, and holy heart. How would you put that in your own words?
7. How might prayer help us to experience the heart of God? What do you think the heart of God is?
8. Tempered iron is made stronger by extremely high heat, pounding, repeating the process, and then being quenched in water. How have you been tempered in 2020?
9. Paul encourages the church to grow and overflow in love for the church and for all people? Why is it so important not to love just fellow Christians, but everyone?
10. If a person is living life wholeheartedly, how would you describe what that looks like?