

# Thriving In Turbulent Times

## Don't Be Cold, Be Compassionate!

### 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

*If we're NOT Careful, we can be SO Exposed to the Sinfulness of this world that OUR Hearts can become COLD. (Matthew 24:12)*

*As we Look to the Return of Christ, let Him find us Loving OTHERS.*

*When you're going through Difficult Times, Do YOU Pray for More LOVE?*

#### 1. THE ESSENCE OF COMPASSION. (v.12a)

- Even under Stress & Pressure, God wants to Show His Love Through US.
- “AGAPE” Loves for the Sake of Another & Expects Nothing in return.
- When the Spirit of Christ comes to Live IN US, WE are NOW Able to Love GOD'S Way.

#### 2. THE EXPRESSION OF COMPASSION. (v.12b)

- As Followers of Jesus, we ARE to Love Each Other. (John 13:34)
- BUT...notice what Paul Tacked on...“And to ALL.”
- Expressing the Essence of God's Love is KEY to Thriving in Turbulent Times.

#### 3. THE EXAMPLE OF COMPASSION. (v.12c)

- Paul THANKED God For Them. (1 Thess. 1:2a)
- Paul PRAYED For Them. (1 Thess 1:2b)
- Paul PREACHED The Gospel To Them. (1 Thess. 2:2)
- Paul Was Gentle, Kind & Considerate To Them. (1 Thess. 2:7-8)
- Paul SACRIFICED For Them. (1 Thess. 2:9)

#### 4. THE EFFECT OF COMPASSION. (v.13)

- The words, “SO THAT” show the PURPOSE for this Kind of Love.
- One Way to Become like Christ (our goal) is to DO what Christ DID.
- The MORE we DO what Christ DID, the MORE Our Life will look Like HIS.
- You may not WANT To but you CHOOSE to Love as Christ Loves.

#### 5. THE EXERCISE OF COMPASSION.

- There's a Definite Relationship between DOING Good & FEELING Good.
- God would NEVER Tell Us to Increase in Love & Compassion if it was Detrimental to OUR Well-Being or HIS Glory.
- When we Turn our Turbulent Times into Opportunities to Love Others, it Makes us just a little bit MORE Like JESUS.
- One Change God always Makes in people is the Ability to LOVE MORE.