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| July 15, 2007  | Pastor Mack Jarvis               |
| <b>How to Rescue Those in Spiritual Danger</b>   |                                  |
| Message #3   | <b>How to Build a Great Life</b> |
| <p>The Power of Encouragement in a Discouraging World<br/>A Study of 1 Thessalonians</p> |                                  |

When believers “fall away,” and they need to be with God’s people the most, they tend to \_\_\_\_\_.

**A Science Lesson: the 2<sup>nd</sup> Law of Thermodynamics**

The law of \_\_\_\_\_ - in the absence of energy, systems move from a state of order to \_\_\_\_\_; from organization to disorganization.

Spiritual entropy governs our \_\_\_\_\_

**A Diagnosis of Spiritual Entropy:**

I. The Symptoms:

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- Time in the \_\_\_\_\_ becomes unimportant
  - \_\_\_\_\_ becomes shallow and inconsistent
  - Awareness of your relationship with Christ becomes \_\_\_\_\_

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- Our \_\_\_\_\_ - the pace of life (family, work, hobbies) become \_\_\_\_\_
  - Our \_\_\_\_\_ - pressures replace priorities
  - Our \_\_\_\_\_

II. The Potential \_\_\_\_\_: the longer and farther we drift, the more difficult it is to \_\_\_\_\_

*13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. Hebrews 3:13 NKJV*

III. The \_\_\_\_\_: Who do you know that is in spiritual danger?

### **Five Steps of Spiritual Rescue**

- 1. Extend a \_\_\_\_\_ that affirms them as a member of the body of Christ**
- 2. Express your \_\_\_\_\_ for the authenticity of their \_\_\_\_\_ in the past**

*13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe. 1 Thessalonians 2:13 NKJV*

### 3. Exhibit Genuine \_\_\_\_\_ for their spiritual wellbeing

17 But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavored more eagerly to see your face with great desire. (v.17)

18 Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us. (v.18)

19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? 20 For you are our glory and joy. (vv. 19,20)

1 Therefore, when we could no longer endure it, we thought it good to be left in Athens alone, 2 and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith, 1 Thessalonians 3:1,2 NKJV

3 that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this. (v.3)

5 For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain. (v.5)

### 4. Establish a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in an effort to save them

Ask yourself: “How can I meet them \_\_\_\_\_?”

**5. Encourage them with your \_\_\_\_\_ over their**  
\_\_\_\_\_

*6 But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always have good remembrance of us, greatly desiring to see us, as we also to see you— 7 therefore, brethren, in all our affliction and distress we were comforted concerning you by your faith.*

(vv. 6,7)

*8 For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord. 9 For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God, (vv. 8,9)*

Some good advice: Stop \_\_\_\_\_ at every step and start \_\_\_\_\_ people on the back

*12 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, 13 so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints. (vv. 12,13)*

### **Inventory/Assignment**

1. What degree of spiritual “drifting” is occurring in \_\_\_\_\_ right now?
2. Who comes to your mind that is spiritual drifting away?
3. Which of these people do you care about enough to attempt a spiritual rescue?