



What are you building?

May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else.

1 Thessalonians 3:12

The circumstances of this passage are filled with struggle and suffering. Paul is separated from the people of the church at Thessalonica. He wants to see them. Paul wants to continue to build his relationship with this church.

It has been said, that, *Faith that is not tested cannot be trusted.*

Paul asks God for a couple of things in this verse:

- He prays that their faith might mature, 3:10. Suffering brings a season of selflessness. That is not always the test we would willingly take, but God knows that selfishness is an easy choice for us.
- Paul prays that their love may abound, see the verse above. Some people build walls during difficulties which shuts everyone out. It can shut out the rescue workers. Other people build bridges by seeking help from worthwhile helpers and advisors.
- His third request for them was for holiness of life, 3:13. To be holy is to be blameless. That is not something we can readily admit. Trouble reminds us that we are imperfect and others are not perfect either.

I think the real question is not what am I building, but what is God wanting to build in my life? Sometimes when we experience sorrow, God wants to tear down something in our life. When God does this, he wants us to know that he is already building something good in our life. The best goodness God wants us to have is to trust him fully and completely.

God, who made us perfect, in Jesus can be trusted.

May your love increase as God constructs his life in your life.