

LIVING UNHINDERED

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1 Thessalonians 2:18-19

Are you in a situation where you are hindered? What do you do when what happens is NOT what you expect, the way you expect and when you expect it? How do you live UNHINDERED?

1. **ADJUST Your PERSPECTIVE – Look beyond not at** (2:19-20)

Paul is not ignoring the hindrances, but he is choosing to look beyond. 'Satan hindered us' – that's a now moment and present reality. But he immediately shifts to the eternal: "You are our joy... our glory at Christ's coming!" We must be like Paul not to ignore the present hindrance but train our eyes to look beyond everything in the present: Our job... children's education... our future. How to do this? We must choose to ...

- a. **Believe** differently by leaning in to **divine truth** instead of human reasoning.
- b. **See** from above – **God's perspective** (2 Corinthians 6:9-10)

2. **ADAPT Your APPROACH – Do what you can** (3:1-2)

What do you do when you can't do what God intended you to do? Do what you **can** do! Paul sends Timothy, his son in the faith and a letter – the letter to the Thessalonians. The letter to the Thessalonians not only encourages them but it enriches and continues to strengthen believers today.

3. **ACCEPT God's PROVIDENCE – Trust in the LORD** (3:10-13)

God's providence is His caring **provision** for us as He guides us in our journey of faith, accomplishing His **purpose** in and for us. Notice verse 11 – "Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus, **direct our way** to you..." Here we have a sense of Paul releasing control of his situation over to the LORD. We see this principle demonstrated in Paul's life in Acts 16. Verses 6-7 show us that twice Paul experience roadblock. Then he heads towards Troas where he receives the Macedonian call where he crossed over to Europe planting churches all over. Remember, **there is a greater 'Yes' in God's 'No'**. Often the LORD allows hindrances in our lives to do four things:

- **Draw us close**
- **Set us free**
- **Use us more**
- **All the above**

Today, can you trust His judgement? Will you surrender to His providential care? Is the LORD saying 'No' to you? The reason is He has a **better way** for you!

Making It Personal:

1. **Insight** – What is ONE new insight the Holy Spirit has given me?
2. **Conviction** – Something pierced my heart or convicted me? Take action now!
3. **Share** – Received something I want to share with someone else?