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**Celebrate Spiritual Success**

1. ***Thessalonians 3:6-10***

Last week we saw that the spiritual success of your brothers and sisters should matter to you. This week we will look at the corollary to that: when someone you care about succeeds, that should cause rejoicing. Too often we focus on what’s wrong instead of rejoicing in what’s gone right. Like Paul, we must learn to celebrate spiritual success!

1. **Celebrating spiritual success means recognizing spiritual success (v 6).**
2. **Faith toward God.**

The great duty of the Christian is to love and believe God in every area of life, and we prove we believe him by how we live.

1. **Love toward believers.**

Scripture consistently tests our spirituality by how much we love other people, especially Christians (Eph 1:15, 2 Thess 1:3, 1 John 3:14, 16, Gal 6:10).

1. **Celebrating spiritual success means being reenergized by spiritual success (v 7-8).**
2. **Spiritual success keeps you going in difficulty.**

Believers who believe they are in a losing fight will act like they are in a losing fight. Believers who know that they serve a God who can do great things will attempt great things for their God.

1. **Spiritual success keeps you going in life.**

In the midst of a busy and extensive career, Paul continued to care about each and every church.

1. **Celebrating spiritual success means rejoicing before God (v 9).**
2. **We must recognize God’s part.**

Paul recognized that it was ultimately God who had done the work of preserving the Thessalonians. Paul had worked incredibly hard and done his part, but God was the one who brought success (1:4-8; 2:13; 5:23-24).

1. **We must thank God for his work.**

Do you ever thank God for the people in your life, and for the work God has done in their hearts and lives?

1. **Celebrating spiritual success means requesting more from God (v 10).**
2. **Our prayers for others should continue fervently.**

Paul had already been praying for the believers in Thessalonica, but the good report he received made him want to pray even more.

1. **Our prayers for others should continue specifically.**

Paul was pleased with the progress the Thessalonians had made, but he saw some areas where they still needed growth.