**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. February 5, 2017**

**Unshakeable Faith**

1 Thessalonians 3:1-13

**Key truth:** The Christian faith is not **void** of trials but shines the brightest in the midst of **dark** times.

How to have unshakeable faith:

1. **Develop** a theology of suffering. Job 2:9-10

 A. **Expect** it. 1 Peter 4:12-19

 B. **Embrace** it. 2 Timothy 3:12

2. **Trust** in the sovereignty of God. 1 Peter 3:13-17

 A. God’s plan in suffering

 1. He wants to **strengthen** us.

 2. He wants to **unite** us

 3. He wants to **purify** us.

3. **Surround** yourself in Biblical Community:

 A. We are stronger **together**. ACTS 4:23-31, ACTS 5:41-42

4. **Beware** of Satan’s plan in suffering: 1 Peter 5:811

 A. To get you to **doubt** the love of God.

 B. To get you to **disconnect** from the body of Christ.

 C. To get you to **denounce** your faith in Jesus Christ.

**Taking it Beyond:** Don’t see suffering as something foreign to your faith. Let God’s Word guide you and provide the foundation you need to stand firm in the midst of suffering.

**Connection Group Study Questions**

**Quick Review:** Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

**Getting to know you:**

On a scale of 1 to 10, how loved do you feel by the members of your church or connection group?

What indication from 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13, lets you know that Paul had a deep love for the disciples at Thessalonica?

Pastor Felton stated, “Suffering should lead us further into fellowship with the church not away from it”. How did the early church view suffering. ACTS 5:41-42, Philippians 3:1-7-11

How do you think the church in America views suffering? What are some if any dangers to the “Prosperity Gospel” that we hear espoused today?

Read John 15:8-16:1-4: “Why do we expect to be better treated in this world than Jesus was?” Leonard Ravenhill. Discuss this quote in light of Scripture.

Read Hebrews 5:8: What did Jesus learn and what can we learn from suffering?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you show love to someone in your church this week.