



## I THESSALONIANS

### Part Twenty Four: "The Christian and Affliction"

#### I Thessalonians 3:3-4

*That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto. For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.*

#### Lessons on Affliction

##### a. The potential of affliction.

➔ The word *affliction* is the word *θλιψις* (thlipsis), meaning "pressure." It's first use in the New Testament is in Matthew 13:21, referring to the **tribulation** that arises in the life of the believer because of the Word.

1) Affliction has the potential to shake the child of God. *That no man should be moved by these afflictions*

2) Growth in faith protects you against being shaken by affliction. 3:2.

##### b. Our predisposition for affliction.

➔ The believer is appointed for afflictions, and afflictions are appointed for the believer. The word *appointed* is the word *κειμαι* (keimai), meaning "to lie outstretched." It's usage throughout the New Testament gives enlightenment regarding its meaning.

Matthew 5:14 - A city that is **set** on an hill cannot be hid.

Luke 2:16 - And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe **lying** in a manger.

Luke 2:34 - And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is **set** for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against.

Matthew 28:6 - He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord **lay**.

Each of these uses of the word "keimai," and many others, refer to Someone/something that is in place where it is supposed to be. This helps us to understand how the believer is *appointed* to affliction.



c. Preparation for affliction.

1) It is our duty to warn new believers that affliction is tied to living for God. *For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation*

2) It is our duty to prepare younger believers to grow to be ready for that affliction. 3:2.

d. Perspective through affliction. *even as it came to pass, and ye know*

1) Enduring affliction increases your confidence in godly teachers.

2) Enduring affliction increases your understanding of God's kingdom.

3) Enduring affliction increases your faith in God's sovereignty.

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## Preparation for Prayer

**Ephesians 6:18** *Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*