

1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5 *But, brothers, when we were torn away from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you. v18 For we wanted to come to you--certainly I, Paul, did, again and again--but Satan stopped us. v19 For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? v20 Indeed, you are our glory and joy. v3:1 So when we could stand it no longer, we thought it best to be left by ourselves in Athens. v2 We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God's fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, v3 so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. You know quite well that we were destined for them. v4 In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know. v5 For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent Timothy to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless.*

## CHARACTERISTICS OF CARING PEOPLE

1. **They do NOT like being separated from those they love – 2:17 -** *But, brothers, when we were torn away from you for a short time...*  
The word translated “torn away” literally means bereaved. To be apart for a caring person is the same as if the person has died.
2. **They are constantly thinking about others – 2:17 -** *(in person, not in thought),*  
The word translated “thought” literally means HEART.
3. **They make every effort to show their care – 2:17 -** *out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you.* The word translated “EFFORT” literally means SUPERABUNDANTLY.  
*Ephesians 3:20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,*
4. **They will not even allow Satan to separate them from those they love – 2:18 -** *For we wanted to come to you--certainly I, Paul, did, again and again--but Satan stopped us.*  
The name “Satan” means adversary. Satan will do all in his power to frustrate the people of God
5. **They remind those they love how much they mean to them – 2:19-20** *v19 For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? v20 Indeed, you are our glory and joy.*  
WORDS have a powerful effect in our lives. How many of you can remember something that was said to you that has shaped your lives. - POEM
6. **They are willing to sacrifice their own comfort for others – 3:1-2, 5** *v3:1 So when we could stand it no longer, we thought it best to be left by ourselves in Athens. v2 We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God's fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ... v5 For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent Timothy to find out about your faith.*  
Timothy was Paul’s right-hand man. Paul had problems with his eyes, so would have had to battle to survive.
7. **They are interested in others spiritual wellbeing – 3:2** *We sent Timothy, ... , to strengthen and encourage you in your faith,*  
The ultimate expression of care is concern for people SPIRITUAL WELLBEING. If you don’t help people spiritually, you are effectively saying to them, “It’s OK for you to go to HELL!!!!”

**WHO IS THE ULTIMATE CARER?**

**JESUS**