

1 Thess 3:12-13

And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

Sometimes you may hear people say that when you come to the Lord that everything will be ok. You can have riches and never have to worry again. That new car or home you wanted is just a prayer away. Yet those who attempt to come to the Lord seeking riches, soon fall away as Jesus said.

✠ **Matt 13:20-22** *"But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful."*

But Paul writes here that we as Christians should increase, but not in earthly riches, but rather, ***"may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all"*** Notice the increase is not by our own works or abilities, but rather by the Lord's. (***may the Lord make you***) And why would the Lord want to do this? The answer is in the next verse, which I like the way the NLT puts it.

✠ **1 Thess 3:13 (NLT)** *As a result, Christ will make your hearts strong, blameless, and holy when you stand before God our Father on that day when our Lord Jesus comes with all those who belong to him.*

When we stand before God, we will not have any of our possessions that we obtained here on this earth with us. No degrees or awards, no medals or certificates, no fancy cars or statuses that we obtained here on this earth. Basically if you think about it, all we will have is our hearts and attitudes that we will present to God.

So, if you were to stand before God right now would ***"your hearts be strong, blameless, and holy when you stand before God our Father?"***

If you don't think so, then ask the Lord to; ***"make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you"***.

Then ***"as a result, Christ will make your hearts strong, blameless, and holy when you stand before God our Father on that day when our Lord Jesus comes with all those who belong to him."*** 1 Thess 3:13 (NLT)