

# 1 Thessalonians 3:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:

## Analysis

**And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith**—Timothy receives three titles: ton adelphon hēmōn kai diakonon tou Theou kai synergon hēmōn en tō euangeliō tou Christou (τὸν ἀδελφὸν ἡμῶν καὶ διάκονον τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ συνεργὸν ἡμῶν ἐν τῷ εὐαγγελίῳ τοῦ Χριστοῦ, 'our brother and servant of God and our fellow-worker in the gospel of Christ'). These escalate: brother (family relationship), minister of God (divine calling), fellow-laborer (partnership in work). Despite Timothy's youth (1 Tim 4:12), Paul treats him as valued colleague, not subordinate.

**To establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith** (eis to stērixai hymas kai parakalesai hyper tēs pisteōs hymōn, εἰς τὸ στηρίξαι ὑμᾶς καὶ παρακαλέσαι ὑπὲρ τῆς πίστεως ὑμῶν)—stērizō (strengthen/establish) and parakaleō (comfort/encourage) define Timothy's mission. Young churches need both: doctrinal grounding (establishment) and emotional support (comfort) to withstand persecution. The phrase hyper tēs pisteōs (concerning the faith) can mean 'about your faith' or 'on behalf of your faith'—Timothy would both inform Paul about their faith and strengthen it.

## Historical Context

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Timothy was Paul's most trusted disciple, converted on Paul's first missionary journey in Lystra (Acts 16:1-3), circumcised to facilitate Jewish ministry despite being half-Greek (Acts 16:3), and trained through accompanying Paul on missionary travels. Sending him to Thessalonica demonstrated both Timothy's trustworthiness and Paul's concern—he sent his most valuable coworker. Timothy's youth (perhaps mid-20s) didn't disqualify him from significant ministry. His report (v. 6) would bring Paul immense relief and joy, confirming the mission's success.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Paul's treatment of young Timothy as valued colleague challenge age-based hierarchies in church leadership?
2. What role do you play in 'establishing and comforting' other believers' faith, especially those facing trials?
3. How can contemporary churches better deploy young, gifted leaders for significant ministry rather than limiting them to subordinate roles?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ ἐπέμψαμεν Τιμόθεον τὸν ἀδελφὸν ἡμῶν καὶ

**And** **sent** **Timotheus** **G3588** **brother** **our** **And**  
G2532 G3992 G5095 G80 G2257 G2532

διάκονον τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ συνεργὸν ἡμῶν ἐν τῷ

**minister** **G3588** **of God** **And** **fellowlabourer** **our** **in** **G3588**  
G1249 G2316 G2532 G4904 G2257 G1722

εὐαγγελίῳ τοῦ Χριστοῦ εἰς τὸ στηρίξαι ὑμᾶς καὶ

**the gospel** **G3588** **of Christ** **to** **G3588** **establish** **you** **And**  
G2098 G5547 G1519 G4741 G5209 G2532

παρακαλέσαι ὑμᾶς περὶ τῆς πίστεως ὑμῶν

**to comfort** **you** **concerning** **G3588** **faith** **your**  
G3870 G5209 G4012 G4102 G5216

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