

---

## **C. STRENGTHENING CHARACTER**

### *C.3: I want to see the quality of **excellence** in my life [1Thessalonians 3:11-13]*

---

#### **A STORY**

In the 2016 Olympics, it was amazing to see each of these athletes demonstrate their vision for excellence. They might break a record, but they wanted more. They wanted to excel and break it again. By excellence I mean that they had a goal that they had reached in the past, but they wanted to EXCEL to the next level. This is not perfection but how you can improve. When you think of where you are in the various parts of your life, one of the character qualities that will strengthen you is the quality of excellence. When you have it, you want to assess your life in all areas and then take steps to improve. This is a way of saying that you are excelling in what you do. This is illustrated in

#### **DIGGING INTO THE BIBLE I Thessalonians 3:11-13:**

*Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. <sup>12</sup> May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. <sup>13</sup> May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones?*

#### **DISCUSSION AND DISCOVERY**

1. What do you observe that the apostle Paul wanted the saints to excel in?
2. What does this passage teach about excellence in love?
3. What would this attitude of character produce in our life?
4. What are the areas in your life that you would like to excel in or abound more or increase?

#### **APPLICATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

5. Which one do you want to excel in currently?
6. What would be one thing that you could focus on?
7. How will you go about this process?
8. Describe your “excellence” plan.
9. When will you get started on this?