✝ **Bible Passages for Further Study:**

(1) Proverbs 15:1

[1] A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. {NIV}

(2) Romans 12:2

[2] Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. {NIV}

(3) Ephesians 4:29

[29] Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. {NIV}

(4) James 1:22

[22] Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. {NIV}

(5) Psalm 119:11

[11] I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. {NIV}

✝ **Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank You that Your Word is still working in our lives. When life becomes difficult, give us strength to keep going, patience to respond with grace, and wisdom to make choices that honor You. Help us receive Your Word as truth and put it into practice every day. Guard our hearts against bitterness, strengthen our faith when we become discouraged, and use our lives to encourage others. Keep changing us from the inside out so that the way we live reveals the Jesus we follow. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Don't Let What's Around You Change What's Within You

Series: Keep Moving
November 8, 2028
Dr. J Frank Howard
Kingswood Church
Rural Hall, NC

✝ **1 Thessalonians 2:9–13**

[9] Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. [10] You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. [11] For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, [12] encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.
[13] And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe. {NIV}

✝ **Mainline: The _____ at _____ _____ you is greater than the _____ at _____ _____ you.**

✝ **The Word…on the Word:**

Some days you wake up ready to take on the world, and before breakfast, the world is taking on you! The pressure keeps coming. People test your patience. Problems keep knocking on your door. But remember this: **just because life gets hard doesn't mean your heart has to get hard!** God hasn't left you in the struggle alone. His Word can guide your steps. His grace can steady your spirit. His strength can help you stand up under it! You may not be able to change what's happening around you, but **God is still working on what's happening inside you.** That's why you can have hope today!

✝ **Think About This:**

(1) How can we keep caring for others when life gets hard?

[9] Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.
~1 Thessalonians 2:9

(2) How can our daily behavior be a barometer for what we believe?

[10] You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed.
~1 Thessalonians 2:10

(3) What would it look like for us to encourage someone the way Paul encouraged the Thessalonians?

[11] For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children.
~1 Thessalonians 2:11

(4) How does knowing God's calling change the way we live?

[12] encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.
~1 Thessalonians 2:12

(5) What happens when we receive God's Word as more than human advice?

[13] And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.
~1 Thessalonians 2:13

✝ **Real Life Applications:**

(1) Don't let a hard day turn you into a hard person.

1 Thessalonians 2:9 (NIV)

9 Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.

Life may be hard on you, but you don't have to be hard on others.

(2) Faith becomes visible when belief becomes behavior.

1 Thessalonians 2:10 (NIV)

10 You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed.

Our beliefs become believable when our behavior backs them up.

(3) God's Word isn't just something to live by, it's something to live out.

1 Thessalonians 2:11–13 (NIV)

11 For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, **12** encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. **13** And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

Let God's <u>Word</u> work <u>in</u> you so God's <u>love</u> can work <u>through</u> you.