

Reasons For Confidence

II Thessalonians 2:13–3:5

1. Our Salvation depends on God

- From God's perspective, He chose us before He made us.
- Salvation is God's work, not our work.

2. Our **Progress** depends on God

- To “stand fast” means “**brace yourself**”.

- While our feet dig **in**, our hands hold **on**.

- “Standing firm” and “holding on” sound very **active**, very energetic, far from passive resignation.

3. Our *Effectiveness* depends on God
- The words “spread rapidly” conjure up the image of a marathon runner who sets a *pace* so he or she completes the race.
 - The message is honored when people receive it as their *own*.

• We can count on God to be God, to protect us and guard us, to shield us from assaults on our soul.

• We labor, but God is the one who builds.

“Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

I Corinthians 15:58

4. Our Ability to Obey depends on God

- Obedience is an issue of the heart.
- Obedience is a matter of our willing, of our choosing God's way instead of our own way or our culture's way.

- In a similar way, we are responsible to obey, but God is the one who supplies the power to do it.

- This keeps us God-focused instead of human-focused, it keeps our ministry God-centered instead of church-centered.