

Scriptures from New International Version unless noted

Passionate Commitment

But brothers, when we were torn away from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you. For we wanted to come to you - certainly I, Paul, did, again and again - but Satan stopped us. For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? Indeed, you are our glory and joy. So when we could stand it no longer, we thought it best to be left by ourselves in Athens. We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God's fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. You know quite well that we were destined for them. In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know. For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless. But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you.

1 Thessalonians 2:17–3:6

The Signs of Passionate Commitment

1. <u>Longing</u>

*But, brothers, when we were **torn away** from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you.*

1 Thessalonians 2:17

"torn away" = Greek ***"orphanizo"*** – from which we get the word *"orphan."* Back then it was used of either a parentless child or a childless parent.

2. <u>Persistence</u>

…we made every effort to see you.

1 Thessalonians 2:17

*For we wanted to come to you - certainly I, Paul, did, again and again - but Satan **stopped** us.*

1 Thessalonians 2:18

"stopped" = Greek ***"enkopto"*** – *"to cut into."*

Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you.

1 Thessalonians 3:10-11

KEY POINT:
Satan will stop you. But Satan cannot stop God.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 6:10-12

"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a ***foothold****.*

Ephesians 4:26-27

"foothold" = Greek ***"topos"*** – *"land; territory; a beachhead."*

To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it [him] away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

2 Corinthians 12:7-9

"messenger" = Greek ***"angelos"*** - angel.

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

1 Peter 5:8-10

One Blessing of Passionate Commitment

<u>Pleasant memories</u>

But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you.

1 Thessalonians 3:6