



*Do you know how faith, love, and hope work?

**1 Thessalonians 1:1(NKJV) Paul, Silas, and Timothy,*

*To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, 3 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, 4 knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God. 5 For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.

1. The apostle Paul is always working with others in his missional calling from God.

The truths the apostle Paul teaches to a group of people in Thessalonica in their 1st three weeks of learning about Jesus are amazing and beyond what we wouldn't consider teaching. Thessalonica was a free city like Athens meaning no Roman soldiers were stationed there. It also means preaching the Bible and the Kingdom of God could be a dangerous thing in this city because that kind of language and thinking could jeopardize their free city status if Rome heard of it.

2. The Work of Faith. Faith is work for us because faith takes us into a realm we don't feel comfortable in. Faith without works is insensitive, lifeless, and Biblically speaking dead.

To speak of the Kingdom of God to a people that would reject it because of their special status took faith. In the three weeks that Paul was there, he spoke on the Kingdom, the rapture, and the return of Jesus all out of the Old Testament. Today, we've been deceived to think that non-church people should be exposed to such subjects upfront.

3. The Labor of Love. Some live deceived that love is an emotion. It is 1st and foremost a choice, after the right choice what follows are the emotions of contentment, desire, and longing.

Love is work, faith is work, and these special qualities don't come automatically. They come from the hardest thing to do as a human, surrendering to God and his Word. Labor is a good word for Love. Think of the birthing process, ladies breathe through the labor process to birth a child. We must breathe a spiritual insight into our love to birth a newness in our lives and world.

4. The Patience of Hope. I believe both the patience and hope come from Jesus Christ the author and finisher of our faith.

Endurance in the spiritual world is not holding on as if your tight grip is the secret. It's giving yourself the inspiration of hope because God never fails.

5. The Key to Steadfastness is found in verse five.

The Gospel (Good News) has to come with a ton of assurance that includes the spoken Word, Power, and the Holy Spirit. Do those who you want to reach, know what kind of person you are?

- "Nobody cares how much you know until they know how much you care." ~Theodore Roosevelt
- The world doesn't need a superman, they need spiritual men and women.

If your assurance is an anchor in a person you will drift spiritually. If your self-confidence is anchored in God you will be steadfast in areas you never thought possible.

*Our faith in God must go out to others.

**1 Thessalonians 1:6 (NKJV) And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. 8 For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything. 9 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,*

1. **V:6 We are followers** first of Jesus and then yes of others.

Paul's sequence of faith and then love is how it truly happens. Finding believers that are filled with God's Spirit inspires us with God's Word and their faith and love. It is a dangerous stage of our faith because some want you to follow them, and they are not fully sold out to the Kingdom of God. This again is risky business.

2. **V:7 We are examples** to others and we lead them in the way they should go.

A faith that doesn't cease because life situations changed. Love in 1st Corinthians says is not self-seeking, it's not easily angered. A love that does not rejoice in evil but rejoices with the truth. A hope that seems effortlessly yet it's not because it is a result of faith and love.

3. **V:8-9 Our witness is like a laser.** When the Word of God is sound in our hearts and mind. The transformation is evident by what we've been freed from (Idols) and who we serve (God).

The simple truth, they didn't have to learn the deeper meanings of God's Word. They had to learn the source of truth comes from God. We too must declare a living and a true God.

*A faith that is focused on the Kingdom of God.

**1 Thessalonians 1:10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.*

1. **Waiting for Jesus** is essential to a proper perspective of this world. Too many are in love with the temporary and haven't embraced an eternal Kingdom.

The moment you embrace the eternal Kingdom of God you've become more steadfast than humanly possible.

2. **Jesus is the deliverer.** This world is fallen. Its potential is only through Kingdom realities.

Personally, God's promise to deliver us from the coming wrath keeps me steadfast, unswerving, and persistent in my heart.