

1 Thessalonians

Week 2: Faith – Hope - Love

The reason for Paul's thankfulness in 1 Thessalonians 1:3 is their "Work produced by faith, Labor prompted by love, & their Endurance inspired by hope!" In the original text there is an emphasis at the head of each of the three phrases "Your work", "Your labor", "Your endurance". YOU are involved in these efforts!

"Work" is the act, process or product, or end product performed. **"Labor"** means strenuous effort. It stems from the root word "to strike." Labor is a difficult, tiring and painful exertion. It emphasizes the weariness and fatigue that follow the work. It's more than doing "kind, Christian" deeds. This is toil beyond ordinary effort while facing unceasing hardships.

"Endurance" is bearing up patiently under a heavy load. It is not passive suffering, but an active endurance that is aggressive and courageous. It is a blazing hope that produces this endurance.

"Faith" leads to work. Confident of the past, so you act today. **"Love"** leads to labor. Confident of God's presence now, you labor today. **"Hope"** leads to endurance. Confident of the future, you endure today.

Questions for the Week:

1. What verse or thought did you want to revisit from the message time this week?
2. Spend some time in Prayer for the disciples of Jesus (locally/globally) as they "work, labor, and endure".
3. Even if it's difficult is there somewhere/someone in which you can apply these verses?
4. What part of these verses do you feel you're struggling with the most?
5. When was the last time you received an encouraging note/letter from someone?
6. What was the encouragement for?
7. Have you witnessed someone's efforts and provided encouragement to them? What was it you witnessed?
8. If you haven't shared with them, could you do that this week in some way?
9. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3
10. What jumps out as important for today?
11. Who/What are you praying for?

Memory Verse:

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 (ESV)

² We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.